

Berkeley Voice

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By Martin Snapp

“Ninth annual Bay to Barkers is Sunday”

A very small boy and a very large dog will be among the marchers at the ninth annual Bay to Barkers walk/run this Sunday at the Berkeley Marina's Cesar Chavez Park. The odd couple: 17 month-old Logan Catz (no pun intended) and his best friend, Waylon, a 4-year-old Australian shepard/Samoyed mix who outweighs him by 50 pounds. The event is a fund-raiser for the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society, where Waylon was adopted two years ago.

“We were a little apprehensive when Logan was born because we didn't know how Waylon would react,” said Logan's mother, Kristin Nagy Catz. “But we took the Humane Society's ‘Introducing Your Baby to Your Dog’ class, and it worked out great. Instead of being jealous, Waylon appointed himself Logan's protector. “We call him ‘Logan's big brother.’” Logan's first work, naturally, was “dog.”

Bay to Barkers is the Humane Society's major fund-raiser. Last year's event raised \$15,000. “That's enough to feed all the cats and dogs in our shelter for a whole year,” said Executive Director Mim Carlson. “Put another way, it would provide medical care for the animals in our veterinary hospital for a month or fund our humane education programs in the Berkeley schools for six months.”

This year's event kicks off at 10 a.m. when the runners embark on a 5-kilometer fun run, followed five minutes later by the walkers, who will traverse a 1.3-mile course.

Among other activities:

- Doggy Olympiad, including the Tennis Ball Catch, Bounce-less Retrieve and the ever-popular T-Shirt Relay.
- Doggy Talent Show, including Best Wiggle, Most Mixed Mutt and the Dog-Owner Look-Alike Contest.
- Pet Expo featuring booths hosted by animal rescue groups, pet products and community groups.
- Alumni reunion and parade for dogs adopted from the Humane Society.
- A world record attempt for “Largest Simultaneous Tidbit Catch”

Registration for the run/walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. The fee: \$30 per dog. People who don't have a dog can still participate by sponsoring a pooch from the Humane Society shelter. All dogs must be at least four months old and wear a current license or identification tag. They must be on a leash, and the leash must be no longer than 6 feet. No retractable leashes allowed.

Leading the parade will be Ginny, a Lab mix from Richmond who has never met as tennis ball she didn't like.

Cat lovers might notice that there's not much for felines in all this. "Cat's don't like sharing time with dogs," Carlson said. But the kitties will have a day of their own Nov. 5, when the Humane Society hosts an art sale titled "Purr-casso." Featuring feline-themed paintings and sculptures by local artists.

Founded in 1927, the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society serves northern Alameda County, including Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington and North Oakland. It is funded solely by private contributions.

In addition to its shelter and veterinary hospital, the Humane Society offers dog-training classes, puppy kindergarten, clicker training for cats, humane education in the schools, pet loss support groups, and dog and cat behavior hotlines.

The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 9th St. Shelter hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, call 510-845-7735 or log onto www.berkeleyhumane.org

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