

BOO! Let the DOGS out

Pets can get their Howl-o-ween on during fall events

BY IAN J. STARK
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Dog owners and their canine companions can expect a packed schedule this October and November with events catering to man's best friend.

"I'm always looking for opportunities to get out with my pup," says Kavita Gera, 26, of East Meadow. She and Bueller, her chiweenie — a cross between a Chihuahua and a dachshund — took part in the annual pet parade and costume competition at Hicks Nurseries in Westbury in 2022 where Bueller was dressed as E.T.; this year's costume remains to be decided.

"Getting to dress him up and see everyone's creativity is an added bonus," she says. Gera also sees the event, happening Oct. 18, as a social boost for Bueller, who feels that "between him and I, I'm honestly not sure who's more excited to see all the dogs."

Liz Kim-Lan, 50, came from Queens to attend the last Hicks pet parade with her rescue dog Charleigh, a Chihuahua mix, who dressed as a hot dog accompanied by her human family members who wore condiment costumes. They plan to return again this season. "The kids love it and we get a chance to meet other dog lovers and see awesome dogs in costume," she says.

From festivals to doggy brunches and costume parades, here's a guide to dog-friendly events happening this fall.

SATURDAY: PAWSWALK 2023 AT BELMONT LAKE STATE PARK

Starting with a light breakfast and pet treats, leashed dogs can then take part in a walk at the park. Attendees will receive a goody bag that includes a bandanna for participating dogs; people who bring a food donation for Long Island Cares' Baxter's Pet Pantry will be entered in a raffle.

COST \$20, ages 13 and older. Registration required.

MORE INFO 8 a.m. to noon; 625 Belmont Ave., West Babylon; 631-991-8106, licares.org

OCT. 18: PET PARADE AT HICKS NURSERIES

Karen Musgrave, marketing and e-commerce associate at Hicks Nurseries, says the pet parade is an opportunity for attendees to meet other people



Owners are encouraged to dress up their dogs in costume at LongHouse Reserve's Canines in Costume event in East Hampton.

and pets in the community. Participating dogs "seem to know this is a special day and enjoy being in their costumes and hanging out with other dogs and their humans," she adds.

The march travels down a decorated path that leads to Otto the Ghost, the center's Halloween mascot. Judges will be on hand to evaluate which costumes will win prizes. All pets will get participation ribbons. Attendees are asked to bring pet food, new toys and other items to donate to Long Island Cares.

COST Free

MORE INFO 5 p.m.; 100 Jericho Tpke., Westbury; 516-334-0066, hicksnurseries.com

OCT. 21: DIEGO'S TRUNK OR TREAT AT SANDS POINT PRESERVE

Hosted by the Nassau County SPCA, the event celebrates Diego, a goldendoodle who survived abuse and required critical surgery before being adopted by a foster family last March. A group of pet-related vendors will be on hand with decorated vehicles and free treats and toys for pups. Games and activities for pets will also be happening, including a costume contest and a pie-eating contest.

COST \$25 per family, cash only

MORE INFO 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 127 Middle

Neck Rd., Sands Point; 516-576-2921, nassaucountyspca.org

OCT. 21: HOWL-O-WEEN AT MICHAEL J. TULLY PARK

This festive gathering will include live music, crafts, giveaways and a contest with prizes given for top canine costumes and best human-dog duo costumes. All dogs in attendance must be leashed.

COST Free

MORE INFO 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 1801 Evergreen Ave., New Hyde Park; 516-869-6311, northhempsteadny.gov

OCT. 22: DOG DAYS AT SUFFOLK COUNTY FARM AND EDUCATION CENTER

Returning for a second year, this event is the only time dogs are allowed to visit the farm. Featuring a corn maze, wagon rides and other farm-related activities, there will also be dog rescues to meet plus "dog sports" (tests of agility, their senses, play time), pumpkin picking and a costume contest.

COST \$15 per person. Each visiting dog will receive a complimentary bandanna; dogs must be leashed and up to date on their rabies vaccination, with proof required at entrance.

MORE INFO 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 350 Yaphank Ave., Yaphank; 631-852-4600, ccesuffolk.org

OCT. 22: BARKIN' BRUNCH AT THE REFUGE'S HOWL 'O' WEEN PARTY

This restaurant will host its last Sunday Barkin' Brunch of the season with a Halloween celebration. Dogs may dine, dress up and walk in a costume parade. "Best dog," "best owner-pet pair" and "best group" costumes will be chosen; fall-inspired brunch cocktails will be available for purchase.

COST Free; reservations recommended

MORE INFO 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 515 Broadhol-low Rd., Melville; 631-577-4444, refuge110.com

OCT. 28: CANINES IN COSTUME AT LONGHOUSE RESERVE

In association with Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons (ARF), dogs are invited to visit this 16-acre space featuring gardens, sculptures and other art. Pooches may also arrive in festive attire to explore the reserve with their humans.

COST \$25 for members, \$35 nonmembers; register in advance

MORE INFO 10 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon; 133 Hands Creek Rd., East Hampton; 631-329-3568, longhouse.org