

Pets putting on the dog

For charity, four-legged friends get dressed to the canines. (Sorry...)

By Rod Stafford Hagwood

FASHION COLUMNIST

Pooch primping and pampering hit a new high in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Last weekend dashing doggies shared the . . . catwalk . . . with Miami Heat dancers and Posche Models, which would explain the wolf whistles.

The Pet-A-Porter fashion fundraiser for the Share-A-Pet program (shareapet.org) was staged at Off-The-Hookah nightclub at Las Olas Riverfront on Friday. Canine couture was coordinated with human high style from local glam-sters: Jennifer Ruffini; Forever Miss Nik by Nikki Sapp; Omkaar Exotic Imports; Marcello Vittoria; and accessories from Pet Lover Couture.

Monday night was "Yappy Hour" on Las Olas Boulevard — more of a pup crawl than a pub crawl. The pet-friendly cocktail happening included various bars, restaurants and retailers with doggie treats, specials and massages. Yes, mutt massages.

Boca Raton-based author Jo Jo Harder was on hand signing copies of her bow-wow book, *Diva Dogs: A Style Guide to Living the Fabulous Life* ([Bowtie Press](#), 2008). A portion of the proceeds benefited the Humane Society of Broward County.

"I was at Pet Fashion Week in New York, and I was in London at the opening of Pet Kingdom at Harrods, to the Pet Parade on Worth Avenue in Palm Beach . . . and all I can tell you is that there is a huge market in fashion, pampering and designer outfits," said Harder, who also oversees the annual online America's Top Dog Model Contest. The fifth season starts Jan. 9 at americastopdogmodel.com.

Take that, Tyra.

Online

All bark, no bite. See photos of local dogs all dolled up.

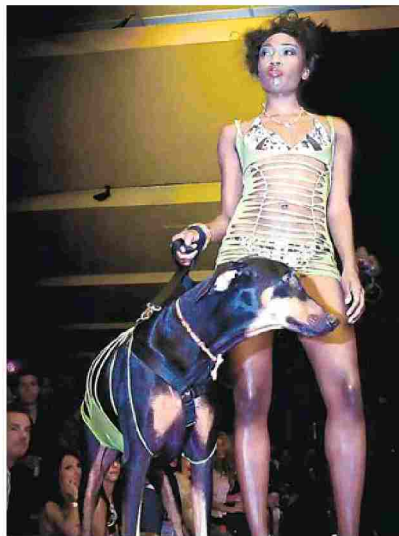
SunSentinel.com/dogs





CARLINE JEAN, SUN SENTINEL

This party animal, owned by Brygiva Trzaska, is dressed to turn heads for "Yappy Hour" along Las Olas Boulevard, in Fort Lauderdale.



JOSEPH CRISTINA, ALLUREMM.COM

These canine stars take center stage at the Pet-A-Porter fashion fundraiser at Off-The-Hookah, Las Olas Riverfront, Fort Lauderdale.