

A Night to Remember

By Stephen L. Brauns



He's a man's man. Women fawn at his arrival. The large and powerful step back in respect. He is 007. Well, sort of. This night Mr. Bond was Mr. Bean, a Chihuahua. He stood tall and swaggered his way through the regal purebreds, the mutts, many local celebrities, beautiful women and the mere common man.

On Saturday, May 10th, the seventh annual Mutts & Models fundraiser was held to benefit the Harrison Memorial Animal Hospital. Harrison Memorial, a program of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation, is the largest non-profit veterinary hospital in the state. They provide spay and neuter services, as well as subsidized services to animals of seniors, income qualified clients and disabled individuals who could not otherwise provide proper medical care for their furry friends. Harrison Memorial runs entirely on charitable contributions and this year's Mutts & Models event raised \$100,000 for this wonderful organization.

The unique aspect of the gathering was noticed immediately upon entering

the building. Ladies and gentlemen were leashed to their favorite friends and there were dogs everywhere. Regardless of the beauty of the ladies present or the gorgeous gowns many wore, there was no way to outshine the real stars of the evening. This event was all about the dogs.

The fashion show featured several dogs sporting 007 attire, Denver celebrities, media personalities and others modeling with their canine pals. The dogs took to the stage and created one of the most enjoyable fashion runway shows you could want to see. The bond between man and dog was so obvious. There was very little "Who is that person?" but everyone wanted to know who the sweet, furry dogs were. They were truly the stars. It was wonderful to see so many people taking time to give back to the friends that give so much to us.

Our thanks go out to co-chairs Brandis Becky Pelletier and Mandy Nadler, the staff and volunteers who made this event come to life and all the attendees and generous donors. If you missed this event, you truly missed a special occasion. Make plans now to attend the 2009 Mutts & Models. You won't want to miss it.

Photography by Mark Siegfried,
Split Image Photography



Clockwise from top right:
Mandy Nadler, 2008 Mutts & Models Co-Chair, Ralph Johnson, Executive Director, Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation, Kirk Montgomery of 9News with Bean, Tom Lorz, donor with Bruno, Mark Randall, former Denver Nuggets and Chicago Bulls player with Camp Bow Wow foster dog, Harley, Amber Pederson, Harrison Memorial staff member with Akia, Ali Van Huesen, professional model with Piper, Karyn Ruth White, national comedian with Priscilla, Kevin Green of Colorado Dog Magazine with Remington and Roger Sierens, Auctioneer, Dan Guidry of The Gourmet Kitchen with Chelsea.

Opposite page, from top:
Jim Crafts, donor and eight-year Harrison Memorial volunteer, Jennifer Williams of Colorado Homes and Lifestyles with Moses, Steve Pelletier, husband of event co-chair with Riley, Skeeter, Juneau, Heidi Flammang, Camp Bow Wow's Top Dog with a foster dog.