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Mike Harris gets shower as his boxweiler Joplin shakes her wet coat after emerging from the Splash Dog pool at the Canine Carnival in 2010.

Canine Carnival is for dogs — and their people

What: Canine Carnival
When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday
Where: Teton County Fairgrounds
How much: Admission is free, activities vary in price

By Kelsey Dayton

What kind of house does your pet call home? If you head to the Canine Carnival you could buy your furry friend a doggie mansion.

A 24-square-foot slate-roofed doghouse, complete with windows, is one of three houses created by Two Ocean Builders. The company donated materials and the manpower to design and create the houses to be auctioned Saturday.

Ayn Nesbitt, coordinator of the Canine Carnival, said money from the auction, as well as all other proceeds from Saturday's event, will benefit the Jackson/Teton County Animal Shelter.

In its fourth year, the Canine Carnival continues its mission of raising money for the shelter and celebrating all things dog related.

The carnival begins at 10 a.m. Saturday and features events that have become crowd favorites such as duck herding and the Course-A-Lure, an obstacle course in which your dog chases a furry decoy over jumps and through tunnels.



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Odin models a fancy doghouse made of cedar and oak with a slate roof and ipe wood flooring. A team from Two Ocean Builders donated the design, time and materials for the canine condo, to be auctioned Saturday at the Canine Carnival.

Snake River Canine will perform demonstrations. You can get your pet's likeness sketched by artist Lia Kass. Or get your dog's nails trimmed or purchase a new ID tag.

Your dog can dip its paws in paint and create a masterpiece painting. Or your kids can decorate your dog with markers provided by organizers, Nesbitt said. There will be carnival

games for dogs and kids.

"It's a great way to come out and spend the day with your dog," she said.

If you have questions about your dog you can ask a trainer

and veterinarian. Other non-profits also will be at the carnival with booths.

You don't have to own a dog to attend the carnival. Last year more than 1,500 people showed up. Those without dogs still enjoyed the activities, especially the Course-A-Lure, Nesbitt said.

The carnival can be a great place to add to your family. All the animal shelters in the area will bring pets looking for homes. That is the reason the carnival started, Nesbitt said. A few years ago the shelters were overwhelmed with animals needing homes. The carnival is meant to be a celebration of dogs and also aims to find a few new owners, she said.

Deli Dogs will provide the food. And if you are really hungry, there is a hot dog eating contest — for the humans — at noon.

You can win prizes throughout the day. There are more than 70 items in the raffle. Prizes range from golf packages to rafting trips. Nesbitt said organizers will draw about eight to 10 winners each hour.

As for the dog houses, they will be displayed until 1 p.m. and then auctioned.

Nesbitt is still looking for volunteers. For information or to get involved visit Jackson-CanineCarnival.org.