

# Dogs and their people enjoy Barktoberfest

**Penny L. Pool**  
Staff Writer

On a beautiful, hot, Saturday, participants in the Randolph County Animal Shelter Book Sale and Barktoberfest raised at least \$2,610 for the animals at the shelter.

Evelyn Smith, fundraising chairwoman, said this includes T-shirt sales, contributions, book sales and the raffle. Ginnie Moore won the raffle prizes, which were pumpkins.

"We did very well. We thank Chris Mitchum for having us there, and all the people in Randolph County who support the animal shelter," she said.

The dog parade and costume contest started at Gerson's Garden, which Siri and Bill Wilkinson own. They are big animal lovers and were heavily involved in the Barktoberfest.

The parade started out with a flatbed pulled by RCAS president Chuck Smith. It was filled with animal shelter employees. Following behind were owners and excited dogs of all kinds and sizes from tiny to large. Many were dressed in colorful costumes. They seemed to have a great time. Hardly a growl was heard as they sniffed of each other. The little ones did not seem to be intimidated by the big dogs.

Traffic was stopped in one lane on Main Street to allow the dogs to parade to the warehouse, where dogs eagerly got into the wading pools. Then they were ready for the return back to Gerson's, where assorted prizes were handed out and the costume winners were named. Dogs greatly enjoyed the water to drink in pools and the cool water on their paws, likely hot from the pavement.

Evelyn Smith's dog, Dixie, wore a sign showing she was adopted from the shelter



**The Barktoberfest pet parade and book sale on Saturday raised more than \$2,000 for Randolph County Animal Shelter.**

when a puppy. Addie Robinson's dog was so cute with a "Bad Dog" sign saying "K94Life" with a charge of excessive chewing. Another sign said penitentiary prisoner. Of course, the costume was black and white stripes.

Siri said probably more than 60 dogs registered to walk. There were six categories of winners: Best Dressed; Cutest Couple; Sassiest Swagger; Sweetest Face; Miss Congeniality and Most Creative.

Siri said all three of her and Bill's dogs are rescues or strays they have adopted. One of them was found as a puppy in a parking lot and brought to them and that is Otis. Bessie is a stray who showed up at Bill's parents' just before they moved here. She was emaciated and they took her back to Delaware with them. Charlie is a rescue they picked up in Pennsylvania when they lived in Delaware.

If you have puppies you cannot care for, take them to the shelter, Siri said. Don't leave them in a parking lot or on a dirt road, call the shelter and see if they can help. Evelyn Smith, April Richardson or Chuck Smith will help any way they can, she said.

Randolph County Animal

Shelter is at 104 Animal Shelter Rd. in Wedowee. The telephone number is 256-357-0101. E-mail is randolphanimal@centurytel.net. The hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and by appointment.

A \$20 donation is requested but not required when you are dropping off stray dogs and cats from the local area for care in the shelter.

April Richardson, the shelter's operations manager, said: "I thought we had an awesome turnout. It looked like everybody was having a good time. Each year I think it gets better, and that makes it better for everybody.

"We want to thank each and every one of them for standing by the Randolph County Animal Shelter and making us a success. Without the sponsorships and donations, we wouldn't be where we are," Richardson added.

Rylee Holloway and her dog, Gidget, won for having the sweetest face. Her mom, Amy Holloway, accompanied them during the parade.

Bat girl was Miss Congeniality. She was Bonnie Loman, whose owner was Sheila Loman. Best couple was Bella and Dakota, handled by Sheila's

husband, Larry Loman.

The most creative was a dog dressed like a cowboy with a cowboy on his back and his owner dressed like a cowgirl.

Otis, Bill and Siri's dog, won best dressed. Bill said they participate because they are dog lovers and they know what the shelter does. Siri added that it is an amazing shelter. She said all three of their dogs could have ended up in a shelter. All these dogs who don't have homes are the best dogs, she said.

M Salon painted illustrations on some dogs. Stump's Grill was a food vendor in the parking lot. There was a booth to register people to vote.

Sponsors are as follows: Randolph County Animal Shelter, M Salon, Gerson's Garden, the law firm of Kesa Johnston Dunn, Genesis Weight Clinic, TEC, Michelle French Design, Emerging Home Care Pharmacy, Quality Beverage Shop, State Farm, ML Awbrey, The Randolph Leader, Wedowee Marine, Reliance Realty, Cambre & Associates, H&M Drugs, RMC, Fincher Fence, All Smiles Dental, Tina and Barry Leath, Sid and Susan Hare, Tommy and Paula Hicks and Erin and Christine Harden.