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# Pets put on the Ritz at fundraisers for animal charities

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

By Rod Stafford Hagwood | Fashion Columnist

November 2, 2008

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.

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[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.  
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