

**MEDIA RELEASE****22 March 2010****More dogs than you can shake stick at  
PURINA BARK IN THE PARK**

More than 1,800 pooches and their owners converged on Waiatarua Reserve in Meadowbank for a fun doggy day out on Sunday for the third annual Purina Bark in the Park event.

Dog owners mingled around the park from 9am until 2pm with the dozens of different breeds in attendance, including Springer Spaniels, Labradoodles, Golden Retrievers, Border Terriers, Dachshunds, Dalmatians, Afghan Hounds, Beagles, Boxers, Jack Russells and English Pointers, to name just a few.

Hundreds of eager pooches and owners joined Hamish Carter and Mahé Drysdale in the ever popular PURINA ONE 'Jog the Dog', and competed in a wide range of activities including the TUX Dog Agility and DOG CHOW Flyball demonstrations, free BENEFUL doggie makeovers and photoshoots, and free PRO PLAN vet advice.

Melissa Harland from Purina, says that this year's event was the most popular ever, attracting a diverse group of people and their dogs.

"It was great to see so many people just getting out to have fun with their dogs, talking with other dog owners and of course allowing the dogs to interact and meet other canine friends. It's what we love about this event," says Ms Harland.

A highlight of the day was the diverse range of competitions, which was open to all dogs:

- The 'Best Dressed Dog' prize was won by Elena Krook with Buddy of Mt Wellington
- The 'Oldest Dog' prize was won by Norman Knaggs with Tara of Howick
- The 'Smallest Dog' prize was won by Mat Rudolph with Sophie of Kohimarama
- The 'Biggest Dog' prize was won by Jane Lee-Cooper with Goober of Hellensville
- The 'Waggiest Tail' prize was won by Alison Lepper with Duke of Remuera

The PURINA BARK IN THE PARK event will now be traveling to Christchurch, where it will be held at Groynes Dog Park, off Johns Road SH1, Canterbury on Sunday, April 11 9am – 2pm.

“Planning is already underway for next year’s Purina Bark in the Park, which we hope will be even bigger and better than this year,” says Ms Harland.

For more information about PURINA Bark in the Park, visit [www.purina.co.nz](http://www.purina.co.nz) or [www.barkinthepark.co.nz](http://www.barkinthepark.co.nz).

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**For hi-resolution photos, or action shots from the day, contact:**

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