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Dogs get all dolled up for Haute Dog fashion show

By **Carolyn Zinko** Updated 10:10 am, Tuesday, February 18, 2014



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The Dalmation known as Ernest Borgniner, 13, a Muttville adoptee, wears an outfit by Madaline Pacheco with owner and Muttville founder Sherri Franklin during the Haute Dog Competition benefitting Muttville at [... more](#)

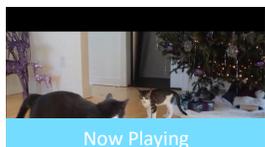
Nearly three dozen dogs from toy Chihuahuas to 80-pound pit bulls strutted the stage in the third annual "Haute Dog" fashion show competition in San Francisco on Feb. 7, but it was a tiny "porkie" (half pug, half Yorkie) who looked proud as a peacock - because she was dressed in peacock feathers - that took the prize for Best in Show.

The event, in its third year, pits dog against dog for the cleverest or best-constructed outfit made of materials sourced at the **San Francisco Design Center**. When she took the stage at the center's galleria, Coco, a mature porkie, drew cheers from the crowd for her empire-waisted teal evening gown with a tulle skirt (fabrics provided by **Duralee**) that was trimmed in humanely gathered peacock feathers (from Dapplegray Peacock Sanctuary). It was capped by a pillbox hat with a peacock feather sprouting from the top.

Mild-mannered clothier **Wilkes Bashford**, the event founder, helped 600 cheering guests raise the woof (so to speak) as he judged the event, which was a benefit for Muttville Senior Dog Rescue. Wines, bites and a raffle were offered to guests, who also browsed Posh Pup Lane, with vendors such as Wag Hotels, Paco Collars of Berkeley, Georgygirl Leather Harnesses and Leanlix rewards (low-calorie training gel), to name a few.

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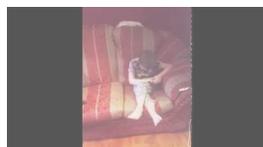




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In its first year, Muttville saved 27 dogs, said founder **Sherri Franklin**, and 537 last year, its seventh year. Older dogs are typically given up by people who don't want to deal with an aging dog's medical issues, or are sent to shelters when their aging owners die without making provisions for a new home. Such pets are often euthanized at shelters because they are considered unadoptable, but Franklin said older dogs can make wonderful companions for seniors or others who are lonely. "We save a lot of human lives, too," she said.

Coco's owner, Anastasia Torres-Gil, said the dog was adopted eight years ago from the Santa Cruz SPCA as a special needs dog because of her advanced age and chronic seizures. Asked where her dog might wear her award-winning outfit again, Torres-Gil laughed, and said, "We were thinking of a quinceañera for her. She's 15."

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