



ARTS & CULTURE

Dogs Go Back to School at Nigeria's Dog Carnival

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Hundreds of dogs recently gathered in Nigeria's business capital of Lagos. They wore things meant for humans: colorful school clothes, sunglasses and even book **bags**.

The dogs were taking part in the third-ever Lagos Dog Carnival. Organizers of the event called it bigger and better than ever. This year, the carnival's **theme** was "back to school."

Jackie Idimogu is the organizer of the event. She said the purpose is to bring together dog owners to celebrate their dogs and learn from each other how to take better care of them.

"This **edition** is bigger and better than the previous editions and interestingly, the number of dogs that we have this year is over 250, which is double what we recorded last year," Idimogu told Reuters.

At the event, the awards on offer included "head boy" for cleanest school uniform, "punctuality **prefect**" and "most noisemaker." Being punctual means arriving on time.

Canada, a white-haired golden retriever, was named head boy. He wore a bright green uniform with stripes and a school bag. Ivory, a bulldog, walked away with the punctuality award for arriving first at the carnival. For **barking** throughout the event, a golden retriever named Oscar took the noisemaker award.

There was even a special appearance by a cat. The animal received an attendance award.

Idimogu said the event has "helped raise **awareness** on keeping dogs as pets. She said there are plans to take the event to other cities across Nigeria in the future.

I'm Ashley Thompson.

Reuters news agency reported this story. Ashley Thompson adapted it for VOA Learning English. Katy Weaver was the editor.

Words in This Story

bag - n. a container made of thin material (such as paper, plastic, or cloth) that opens at the top and is used for holding or carrying things

theme - n. the particular subject or idea on which the style of something (such as a party or room) is based

edition - n. a particular version of a product

prefect - n. an older student who is given the job of helping to watch and control younger students in a school

bark - v. (of a dog) to make a short loud sound

awareness - n. the idea of knowing that something (such as a situation, condition or problem) exists.

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