

Classic News

A publication of The Texas Classic

By Leigha Stevenson

Showman's Best Friend



Faithful, fun, spunky, sleepy, naughty, nice. These are the words that could be used to describe the dogs

of our horse show world. Many would be lost without their canine sidekicks.

"We've had her all her life," said Frank Dellahunty, owner of Sassy, a people-loving Blue Heeler. "She goes everywhere with us and is highly insulted if we don't take her."

If you've ever been to a horse show, chances are you've seen one of these dogs, but have you ever stopped to consider the different varieties?

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High-Point & All Around Leaders

Jr. Horse- Real Time Minute

Sr. Horse- Kamanyawannadance

Green Horse- Zippo Amegio

Yth. 13 & Under- Whos On The Rail

Yth. 14-18- Cool To Be Zipin

Amateur- Ima Moxie Man

Select Amateur- Wonit Ona RV Version

Novice Yth.- Im Wrappin

Novice Am.- See I Made You Look

Open Western Horse- Vital Signs Are Good

Open English Horse- Kamanyawannadance



Exhibitor Party Provides Entertainment for All

On Friday night, the Watt arena was packed with exhibitors eager to partake in the evening's festivities.

"This party is our way of showing our appreciation to the exhibitors at the Texas Classic." Said Val Clark, show manager.

A hot meal complete with decadent pecan pie was a hit with exhibitors after the day of showing.

The Bobbie Skelton artwork was auctioned off, bringing the crowd alive. The \$3,500 raised benefited the TQHA Foundation, a non-profit program that helps provide scholarships, youth outreach, crisis care and funding to therapeutic riding programs. Special thanks to Ken Banks, Nancy Moxley and Kurt Heite DVM for their contributions to the foundation.

The evening continued with a trivia contest where each contestant had the chance to answer questions and win \$100 for each correct answer.

The smiles on exhibitor's faces and cheers from the crowd are what prove the Texas Classic is "not just another horse show."

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Some are ever devoted and faithful, and can be found trotting dutifully behind their owner aboard a horse, lying patiently in wait at the arena gate, no matter what the weather condition or calmly sitting in the stands during classes.

Greg Johnson’s Visla “Rio” fits this description to a tee.

“When I’m at a show I can tell him to go sleep in a chair and he’ll stay there all day,” Johnson said. “He also does a lot of tricks though, he’s like a little circus animal.”

Others are independent, spirited and full of character. These are the dogs that prefer roaming about the show grounds, looking for playmates, making new friends and just loving life.

Last but not least is the quiet, reserved, taking life easy type. Long afternoon naps at the stalls are priority, pats on the head often go unnoticed due to a deep slumber and waking up only for treats or a meal is not unusual.

“If there is a cool place, he will find it,” Lindsey McMullen said about her 11 year-old chocolate Labrador “Bear.” “Everybody knows him, at Redbud he stays in the show office, here at the Classic he likes to cool off in the bathroom by our stalls then walk out the door on the opposite side and sit by the concession stand and beg.”

Laura Hastie’s dog “Billy” is loyal, kind, loves people and loves food even more.

“One time at a show I had several people come up to me asking if I knew Billy wasn’t by the stalls anymore,” Hastie said. “I knew exactly where he was,” she said with a laugh “he was sitting in line at The Sweet Shop.”

So the next time you see Bear taking a siesta or Billy waiting patiently in line for a cinnamon roll, take a moment to recognize the impact these dogs have had on our lives and how special they are to the ones who love them.



Andy’s face says he’s always having a party!



Bear loves the air conditioning.



People aren’t the only ones watching all the Reining runs.



Billy doesn’t mind doing tricks for treats!



Rio gets his own Big Mac when his owner Greg drives thru McDonalds.