

America's Family Pet Expo Reaches New Record In Animal Adoptions

An annual pet expo in California reaches a new high in pet adoptions.

By The SmallAnimalChannel News Division

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The pet adoptions at this year's America's Family Pet Expo exceeded the adoptions from last year by more than 100. Could these rabbits have been some of the lucky adoptees?

The World Pet Association's 21st annual America's Family Pet Expo, held April 16 to 18 in Costa Mesa, California, resulted in a record number of animal adoptions, according to organizers. A total of 668 animals were adopted from local animal shelters at this year's event, breaking the show's previous record of 560 adoptions.

"WPA's goal each year is to make America's Family Pet Expo a fun and educational event that consumers of all ages can enjoy, but we're also dedicated to making an impact on the community through teaching consumers about responsible pet care," said Doug Poindexter, the WPA president. "We're delighted to report a record number of pet adoptions this year and hope the number continues to increase for years to come."

This year's event drew more than 37,000 people and featured more than 1,000 animals in educational exhibits, demonstrations, competitions and entertaining performances. In addition to dogs, cats, birds, fish, reptiles and small animals, the expo offered equine entertainment and attractions for the first time.

A number of pet rescues were on hand to find homes for a variety of animals. As a result of their efforts, 538 dogs, 105 cats, 21 rats, two rabbits, one rooster and one mouse were placed.

Other nonprofit organizations were also in attendance. Among them was Beach Animals Reading with Kids (BARK), a Long Beach, California-based organization that uses therapy dogs to improve children's reading skills. Show organizers said BARK has experienced an increase in volunteers and traffic to its website after participating in America's Family Pet Expo for the past two years.

P&G Pet Care's Iams and Eukanuba brands were the show's presenting sponsors, and Petsource.org sponsored the pet adoption building and dog breed booths. Other sponsors included Avoderm Natural, BioLargo Inc.'s Odor-No-More brand, Bowtie Inc., Canidae Pet Foods, Grizzly Pet Products, Instant Ocean, Jarden Animal Solutions, Jefferspet.com, Kaytee, Super Pet, Marineland, Natural Balance Pet Foods Inc., Nutro Products Inc., the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, PetSmart, Petco, Purr & Simple, Seachem Laboratories, SVC-West, Tetra and The Pet Care Trust.

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