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Dogs take to the catwalk for animal charity

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A toy poodle got a chance to give back to the shelter that found him a loving home at the second Paws for Life charity event.

Scott Schechter and Russ Klein of Asbury Park brought Tigger to participate in a doggy fashion show Saturday afternoon at Wonder Bar.

Tigger was a shelter animal rescued by the Monmouth County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Schechter said, adding that the toy poodle was adopted in July 2006.

"We had a christening at Asbury Bark when we got him," he said. "I'm a parent, and Tigger is like my son. He's the greatest little dog."

"The SPCA saves lives of dogs, cats and their new parents' lives too," Schechter added.

Paws for Life is a charity started by local businesses to benefit animals at Monmouth County SPCA and Asbury Rockin' Cats, said Brian Banach, event coordinator.

Debbie DeLisa, manager of Wonder Bar, said more than 100 people were at the fashion show.

About 15 dogs participated this year — six more than last year, Banach said.

Also, Paws for Life raised \$1,300 last year. By 8 p.m. yesterday, the event raised \$584, Banach said.

Herbie the pug was celebrating his 6th birthday on the catwalk, said owners Debbie and Steve Weingroff of Toms River.

Jake, a 4-year-old greyhound and mascot of Asbury Bark, also participated. Jake won best of breed earlier this year at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York.

Yesterday's festivities were sponsored by Asbury Bark on Cookman Avenue, Market in the Middle on Cookman Avenue and Wonder Bar on Ocean Avenue.

In addition to the events at the Wonder Bar, Market in the Middle held a reception displaying animal-inspired paintings by local artist Joyce Stolaroff. Wine, cheese and tapas were served.

Paws for Life was a public event, and sponsors asked for a suggested donation of \$20 for the charity beneficiaries.
