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Rescue me and hold me in your arms.

That is the mantra of the Houston World Series of Dog Shows, as it introduces a new competition to raise rescue-dog awareness.

This year, the **Houston World Series of Dog Shows**, happening July 17-21, 2019, in Houston's NRG Center, is all about rescues. For virtually every one of its 42 years, the Houston World Series of Dog Shows has presented many, many rescue groups and their adoptable dogs to the public, but this year, it will include a competition devoted entirely to rescues, our first-ever, "Houston's Rescues Have Talent" show.

The new talent show is open only to rescues. Here rescue-dog owners can show off their pets in five categories – **Best Butt Wiggler, Best Dog & Owner Look-Alikes, Best Trick Performance, Best Vocalist** and **Cutest in a Costume**. The winner of each category will qualify to compete in the **"Best in Rescue"** competition. The talent show will take place on Saturday, July 20, from 12 to 2 p.m. in Hall D, and **"Best in Rescue"** will be from 2 to 3 p.m. in Hall B's performance ring. Cash and McScotty Market merchandise will be awarded as prizes. Rescue-dog owners may enter their pets at <https://houstondogshows.com/houstons-rescues-have-talent/>. One entry per person, please.



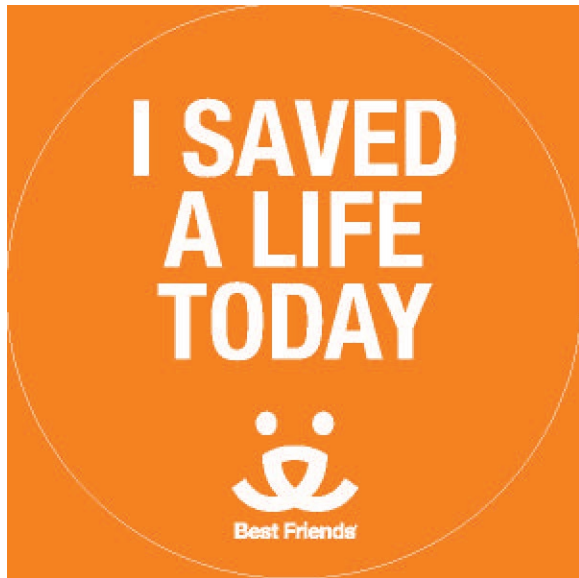
**PRESENTED BY:
THE HOUSTON WORLD SERIES OF DOG SHOWS**



Rescue-dog owners who love to deck out their pets in spectacular costumes now have a place to shine. The Houston World Series of Dog Shows' **Houston's Rescue Have Talent**, held Saturday, July 20, will award prizes to rescues competing in five categories — **Best Butt Wiggler, Best Dog & Owner Look-Alikes, Best Trick Performance, Best Vocalist and Cutest in a Costume**. Sign up at <https://houstondogshows.com/houstons-rescues-have-talent/>. Photo credit: Zuzana Leckova.

Show chairperson Tom Pincus wanted to change the focus of the Shows a little bit this year. “We want to send the message that our dog shows are not just about pedigreed dogs or even highly trained, performance animals. We value and respect rescued dogs and the love and joy they bring their owners. Those who rescue animals should be lauded for saving the lives of countless animals. Our new contests are intended to do just that – give rescued dogs and their adopters the recognition they deserve.”

To further the cause of animal rescue, the **Houston World Series of Dog Shows** sponsored the Best Friends Super Adoption event, held June 22 and 23, at NRG Arena, Hall D. Anybody who adopted a dog at this event may receive \$3 off an adult ticket to the big dog shows. All adopters need to do is bring in the “I Saved A Life” sticker from the Best Friends event and present it to the ticket booth at the dog shows to receive the discount.



The **Houston World Series of Dog Shows** will be held in Halls A through D in NRG Center, July 17 through 21. General show hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Tickets are available at the door. Admission is free to the public on Wednesday, July 17. On Thursday, July 18, tickets are \$10 for adults, and Friday through Sunday adult tickets are \$15. Seniors over 55 and active/retired military with ID pay only \$10. Children 12 and younger are free with purchase of an adult ticket. Parking is \$15 daily, cash only.

The **Houston World Series of Dog Shows** is sanctioned by the American Kennel Club and supervised by Onofrio Dog Shows. During their five-day span, the shows typically attract more than 40,000 spectators and participants and 14,000 entries. The series' main sponsor is Purina® Dog Food, makers of Purina® Pro Plan® dog food. Seresto®, part of Bayer Animal Health, is also a supporter. See www.houstondogshows.com for additional information.



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