

14th Halloween Extravaganza a Howling Success!

On October 17, at the ACTSS 14th Annual Halloween Extravaganza, we set a record at 350 people and their pets in attendance! Even more exciting, with the assistance of Emcee Seanna Collins of Global TV and Gary Meyer, Auctioneer extraordinaire, we doubled our proceeds this year at over \$50,000!

The evening began with a moving tribute to “Angel” one of the pets with cancer ACTSS subsidized and her family that stood by her through this difficult time. The Italian Banquet Facility served a delicious meal enjoyed by all and in between bites, people kept sneaking off to outbid others on their favorite silent auction items.

Dinner was followed by a game of “Heads & Tails” with the lucky winner taking home an autographed Brett Michaels cowboy hat followed by our LIVE auction, that created an all time high bidding war for items such as an Edmonton Police Service Canine unit tour, autographed Big Bang Theory wine, luxurious stays at the Fairmont resort in Lake Louise and Echo Valley Ranch & Spa and Thunder 1 charter fishing adventure trip. New this year, we featured a wine tree with over 60 varieties of wine that was an appealing feature of our stage until auction time.

Back by popular demand was the balloon frenzy with over 100 balloons containing gift cards and certificates valued at \$25-100. For just \$20, guests stormed our real-life lifesavers for a chance at one of these winning balloons. Tremendous thanks to Firefighters; Curtis Lomanaski and Scott Wilde, Canadian Search and Disaster Dog Assistance Team members Josee Nolting and Richard Lee, Veterinarians; Heather Lam, Annabelle Sydie, Sherry Van Boxtel, Kristina Hughes and Doug Hefflefinger, Animal Health Technologists; Erin Gerwing and Dawn Philips. These individuals bravely fought off the crowds of eager participants that showed no mercy in having a chance at getting a balloon!

Next; the Pet Costume Contest took the stage and the cheering was enthusiastic for the 20 pets, which included a Star Wars Jawa and Yoda, cowboys, a teenage mutant turtle, a spider and sheep. With so many great entries, the contest was eventually won by the infamous Judy, Mitzi and Roger Millette who posed as the police intercepting the Anthony Henday traffic jam!

The audience was full of surprise with the announcement of our “Purse Snatcher” event....after 3 bidding wars for Michael Kors, Matt & Nat and Kate Spade purses, the surprise came when one lucky lady also took home her purse full of money! The evening was a huge success and tremendous thanks must go to all the volunteers and especially to the Halloween Extravaganza team that worked so hard to put on this wonderful evening.

Guests were also treated to “tea sampling” provided by DAVIDsTEA (Whyte Ave) with animal-themed “Pink Flamingo” tea! Other exhibitors included original artwork by Little Blue Bug designs and Portrait sitting certificates by Chewed Slippers Pet Photography who generously donated their proceeds from the evening to ACTSS.

Special thanks to the Committee Organizers: Auction (Jennifer Stelfox, Carol Nelson & Sharen van Fossen), Raffle (Amanda Dean), Public Relations (Cherie Sawaryn & Chelsey Chapman), Ticket Sales (Kathy Carey & Debbie Legere), Decorations (Darlene Job), Volunteers (Lia Watkin), Costume Contests (Jen Shelley), Sponsorship (Sandi Krucik-van Bommel), Program (Lorraine Shulba & Sandi Krucik-van Bommel), Audiovisual (Ron Strobl), Evening Event (Sandi Krucik-van Bommel, Cherie Sawaryn), Cash Out Table (Diane Gauvreau, Madeleine Leduc) and Photography (Lorna Savak, Darlene Konduc).

ACTSS would not be celebrating our success without distinguishing the wonderful support of our event Sponsors.

- Gold: Shippers Supply
- Silver: Western Veterinary Specialist & Emergency Centre and Leduc/Beaumont Animal Clinic.
- Bronze: Guardian Veterinary Centre, Crestwood Veterinary Centre, Lorna Savak
- Volunteer: Park Veterinary Centre, Janet Ohm
- Wine: Lexus of Edmonton (West)
- Pet Costume Contest: Sleepover doggie hotel & daycare
- Human Costume Contest: Dirty Dog Spa
- Annual Supporters: Ken and Judy Chan
- Early Bird Draw Sponsors: Bellstar Hotels and Resorts

We are extremely grateful for the generosity shown by so many people in making this year’s event reach even further to the pets with cancer that we are able to help make a difference in their lives – thank you!

If you enjoyed our event, please tell your friends and family and help spread the word! We hope to see you next year!

Sandi Krucik-van Bommel, Event Chair