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'Woof off' for dog lovers

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UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia (UPM) Faculty of Veterinary Medicine's Zoologico will be hosting a *dogathon* for the 12th time at UPM's Bukit Ekspo from 7am to 2pm on Sunday.

The theme is **AEROSPACE: Astronaut, Asteroids, Astrodogs ... Woof off!**

Organised by the faculty's Venternak Club for dogs and canine lovers, the *dogathon* started in 1997 and is a platform to address issues and raise funds on stray dog awareness.

Funds raised are channelled to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)

and PAWS Animal Welfare Society.

Dogathon 2008 director Yew Ee Ling said the event inculcates responsibility of pet ownership and to raise funds for the "Pro-Kasih" welfare project - a programme jointly managed since 2006 by the faculty's Venternak - Zoologico Club and the UPM Student Affairs Division to reduce the number of stray dogs in the streets and to lessen their suffering through the castration programme.

"We hope the public will support us by taking part in the *dogathon*," she said, adding that about 2,500 participants along with 600 dogs are expected.

The event includes a dog-

running competition where the participating dogs are made to race over a 2.5km hilly course in UPM. A demonstration on the RESC-UFO, an object retrieving game, will be the "AEROSPACE" feature of the event.

Pet food company Blackwood is the main sponsor for the event while Rhone Ma animal health biologics trading company is the co-sponsor. There will be many prizes in the various competitions.

For more information, email dogathon2008@gmail.com, visit www.vet.upm.my/~dogathon or call Lee Sook Yeng at 016-6200136.