‘Woof off’ for dog lovers

by Prevarnav Amirtham

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

The theme is AEROSPACE: Astronaut, Asteroid, Astrodog ... Woof off!

Organised by the faculty's Venetum 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 En Ling said the event inculcates responsibility of pet ownership and to raise funds for the “Pro-Animal” welfare project – a programme jointly managed since 2006 by the faculty’s Venetum - Zoologie 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 RFSR-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 Mavet animal health biologics trading company is 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 Soo Yeng at 016-6260116.