



A dog sits atop a 'pyramid', which was one of the landmarks replicated at the event.



Visitors also got a chance to consult vets at the event.



Visitors taking advantage of colourful props for photo opportunities.



Participants line up for the dog race. — Photos: S.S.KANESAN/The Star

Canines globe-trot in a day

Event replicates landmarks to give pet owners feel of travelling with their dogs

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PET lovers to the annual Dogathon event at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) had a fun time "travelling around the world" with their beloved dogs.

Props and a 12m artwork depicting iconic landmarks of various countries gave dog owners the opportunity to snap pictures with their pets in accordance with the event's theme, "Dogs Around the World".

The event, Dogathon 2018, was held at Bukit Ekspo, UPM, Serdang, and attracted a sea of crowd from as early as 7am.

It was organised by about 400

students of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine led by Dogathon 2018 co-director Kelly Ee and Ooi Zhi Heng.

"Travelling around the world with our dogs is a distant dream for many of us.

"So, this inspired the theme for this year's Dogathon theme and we hope that owners and their pets had a fun time together," said Ee, adding that parts of the proceeds collected from the event would be channelled to their annual Pro-Kasih programme - Catch, Neuter and Release.

The faculty's dean, Prof Dr Mohd Hair Bejo said the event was aimed at raising awareness of the new Animal Welfare Act, which was implemented last year.

"The event has come a long way since its inception in 1997 and we hope to continue raising awareness of the welfare of animals among the public.



Three huskies and their owners spotted at the Dogathon.

"I would also like to congratulate all parties involved, especially the students, in making this event a success," he said.

Also present were UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine deputy dean of academics Assoc Prof Dr Siti Suri Arshad and Dogathon 2018 ambassador William San.

The event kick-started with the

Dog Race, where participants were separated into four categories, large and small-sized dog with men and women owners.

Programmer Chan Chee Song, 33, defended his title when he came up tops in the men with large-sized dog category with his six-and-a-half year old mongrel named Milo.

"I won the race last year and this is my third year participat-



Chan and Milo are all smiles after winning the Men with Large Dog race category at Dogathon 2018.

ing.

"It feels good winning with Milo and I guess it meant something to him too," he said.

Chan said he found Milo five years ago in a bush.

"The dog was whimpering in pain, so I took him to a vet and discovered that it had its spine overlapping.

"The vet said the condition could not be treated so I took him home but miraculously, he was

able to move after six months," he said.

At the event, dogs were examined before entering the venue to ensure they were healthy.

About 4,000 were expected to the event with several booths selling food and accessories for the dogs.

Plenty of water was also prepared for the dogs' consumption, to prevent heatstroke in the hot weather.



The igloo prop attracting the attention of a couple of dogs as their owner looks on.



Dog owners show off their large dogs at Dogathon 2018.