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Furry friends of World Animal Day

BY AMY SACKS
 DAILY NEWS WRITER

Saturday, September 27th 2008, 4:00 AM

October 4 is World Animal Day, so it's no surprise that the city is chock full of fund-raisers, adoption events, art exhibits, and blessings that celebrate pets and all living creatures.

Earlier this week, a group of downtown artists who met through their dogs at the [Washington Square Park](#) dog runs held an exhibit in SoHo, which featured paintings, photographs, cartoons and even a robot, inspired by their love for animals.

"Not only are they inspired by the beauty of their own pets, but also by those of other people," said writer

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and painter [Claudia Schwalb](#), a regular at the small dog run with her miniature poodle, Ethan.

Among the artists who contributed work include punk and [Blondie](#) photographer [Roberta Bayley](#), cartoonist [Dick Sebastian](#), multimedia artist [Sheila Tejada](#). Their work can be viewed at:

<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzev8zun/dogcommissions>

Other events in and around the city include:

Today, all dogs are invited to come in costume for a fun of run at the 2008 Annual Canine Comedy Parade, from noon to 2:30 p.m. at [Gramercy Park](#) West. For further information, go to: www.gnaonline.org.

Tomorrow, grab a leash and head to [Central Park](#) for the NYC Animal Care & Control's 2008 Central Park Dog Walk. The benefit will feature a dog walk, live music, vendors and onsite adoptions. From 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the park's [East Meadow](#) at 99th St. More information at: www.nycacc.org.

Or put on your walking shoes and join Farm Sanctuary's Walk for Farm Animals to help raise awareness and funds to protect farm animals from abuse. Registration is at 10 a.m., and the walk starts at noon at [Columbus Circle](#). If leaf-peeping in the [Catskills](#) is in your weekend plans, stop by the Woodstock Farm Animal Sanctuary for its annual all-faith Blessing of the Animals. Well-behaved dogs (on leash), cats, feathered friends and other companion critters are welcome at the 20-acre sanctuary. Tomorrow from 1 p.m. For directions go to woodstockfas.org.

On Thursday, the [North Shore Animal League](#) is inviting senior citizens for a special Senior Appreciation Day. Seniors will be entitled to waived adoption fees for all animals, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 25 Davis Ave., Port Washington, L.I.

Next Saturday, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., the [General Theological Seminary](#) will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals in honor of [St. Francis of Assisi](#). Located at 21st St. between Ninth and 10th Aves. For info, call (212) 243-5150.

On Sunday, Oct. 5, celebrity trainer Bash Dibra will host a Blessing of the Animals from noon to 2 p.m. at Canine Court, Van Cortlandt Park, the [Bronx](#).

Also Oct. 5, starting at 11 a.m., the Cathedral of St. John the Divine will host its Annual St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals ceremony. Dogs of all faiths are invited, but warning to the timid: the cathedral can get packed with thousands of animals of every shape, size and species! 112th St. and Amsterdam Ave.

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, "Thanking the Monkey" author [Karen Dawn](#) will host a reading and book-signing in honor of World Vegetarian Day, from 7:30-11 p.m. at Jivamukti Yoga Studio, 841 Broadway.

On Monday, Oct. 6, the legendary [Debbie Harry](#) of Blondie will host Rational Animal's 3rd Annual Gimme Shelter: Rock & Rescue benefit for NYC's at-risk animals. Beastie Boy Adrock and [Gina Gershon](#) will be the guest hosts. This year's concert will feature performances by the electronic artist [Moby](#), [Brooklyn](#)



Roberta Bayley
I Love You, by Jennifer New York
Instagram: Roberta Bayley, among pet-inspired artworks display in the World Animal Day



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indie power trio [Earl Greyhound](#), and others. Also featured is a rock star silent auction. [Highline Ballroom](#), 371 W. 16th St. For info and tickets, go to [www.rational-animal.org](#).

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