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MANILA, Philippines - The World Animal Day celebration last Oct. 4 became a star-studded event, with TV's latest celebrity dog, Charlie, gracing the occasion with his fellow (human) stars.

Charlie a.k.a. "Bantay" of Kapuso teleserye "Bantatay"--- the canine who inhabits the soul of Raymart Santiago's character---was the special guest during the mass for the pets, reported "24 Oras," Oct. 5.

In a footage shown on the report, Charlie looked comfortable before the camera. The dog sat on the ground relaxed, barking in front of the microphones put before him.

With him were his "Bantatay" young co-stars---and newfound pals---Krystal Reyes, Sweet Ramos, and Renz Valerio.

Charlie and Raymart Santiago, stars of GMA's teleserye "Bantatay"

"Kapag nakikita niya po kami, kilala na niya po kami. Kumakawag po 'yung buntot niya," Krystal told "24 Oras."

Sweet, meanwhile, related, "Pag tinawag po siya, pinapansin niya kami."

Also present during the pet blessing were dance diva Regine Tolentino, together with her husband Lander Vera-Perez and their kids, and power belter Bituin Escalante, who performed then.

After the mass came the pet blessing, a long-running event mounted by the Philippine

Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) 15 years ago.

Anna Cabrera, program director of PAWS, said that the animal blessing paved the way to generate “greater awareness of kind treatment to animals.”

Prior to the mass and pet blessing, around 1,400 pets---dressed and accessorized to ultimate cuteness by their owners---held a procession at Eastwood together with the image of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

Down south, a pet show and pet blessing was held in Zamboaga City. In Koronodal, South Cotabato, pets were clothed using indigenous materials, such as corn skin, abaca fiber, and coconut leaves.

Last Oct. 3, meanwhile, another pet blessing was organized at SM Mall of Asia. Celebrity pet owner Karylle participated in the event and brought her two dogs. Pinoy bands South Border and True Faith also performed.

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