

# Dating Goes to the Dogs

Future lovers  
bring their best  
friends to Jack's  
Pub for a little tail-chasing



PHOTOS, JAKE DEAN

**By Allison Hatfield**

*Special Contributor*

"Are you F150?" asked a middle-aged man wearing a blue shirt and khaki windbreaker as he approached a dark-haired woman in a hot pink cowboy hat.

"I think I recognize you," he said. "You're F150, right?"

Confused, the woman, 31-year-old Stefani McMurrey, told him no, and the gentleman moved on.

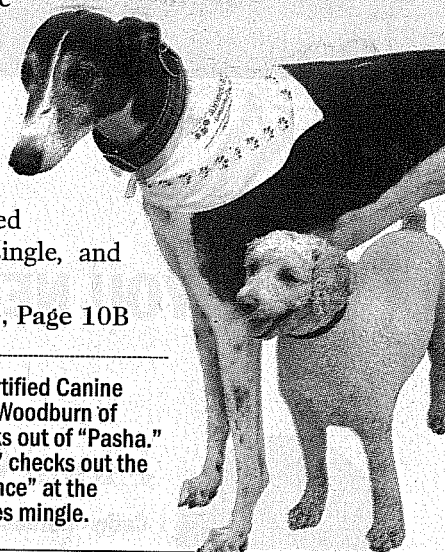
It was an honest mistake, really. Ms. McMurrey does resemble "F150prncss," a local member of the online dating service Animalattraction.com, which recently hosted a party at Jack's Pub that drew close to 150 people.

At the gathering, which raised money for the SPCA of Texas, pets and owners were treated to free professional pet portraits by photographer Margaret Bryant, canine and human massages, and doggie bags filled with treats from Pet Supplies Plus.

The gray afternoon and the casual bar provided an ideal setting for dog owners to mix and mingle, but for just about everyone, it was less about letting hormones run wild and more about letting their dogs off the leash. White Rock was too muddy, Deep Ellum was too far, but the Yale Boulevard bar was just right.

An Irish setter raced around, kicking up sand. A beagle puppy vied for the attention of just about everyone. A pit bull stood guard by the pool table. OutKast thumped in the background. Someone ordered another Shiner Bock. The party was like a dog park with beer.

Attendees didn't have to be registered with the website to join in the good time. Ms. McMurrey isn't a member, but the owner of a pair of Tibetan spaniels named Tiara and Pasha is single, and



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**GETTING KINKY** (above): Certified Canine Massage Therapist Shelley Woodburn of Tender Touch works the kinks out of "Pasha." **GIVE ME SHELTER**: "Poodle" checks out the scene from underneath "Lance" at the Animalattraction.com singles mingle.

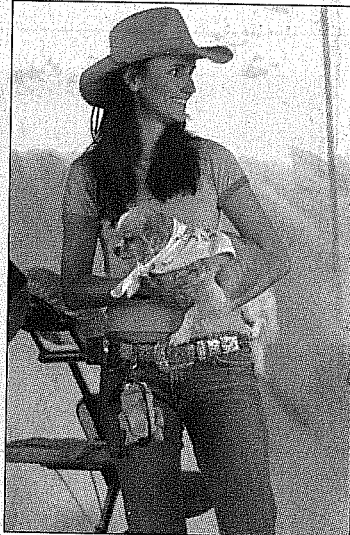
# Dating

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that, said Dan Cohen, founder and president of Animalattraction.com, makes her part of the target market.

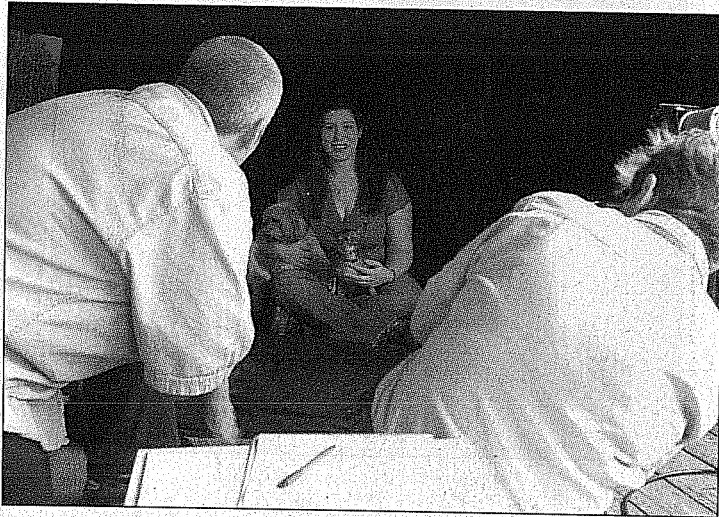
Mr. Cohen, who lives in Washington, D.C., launched his site in May and is hosting parties in cities around the country, promoting the dating service through singles events where people are invited to bring their pets.

One of Ms. McMurrey's spaniels made friends with Eli Moya's black pug, Brutus. The pups, one as refined as



PHOTOS: JAKE DEAN

**DOGGONE IT:** Fashion conscious dog owner Stefani McMurrey holds her pooch "Tiara."



**SAY WOOF:** Jennifer Clements has her portrait taken with dogs "Alex" and "Tebby" by photographers Margaret Bryant and Terri Walker.

royalty and the other wearing a double-studded black leather harness, were as unlikely a match as their owners.

Ms. McMurrey and Mr. Moya didn't exchange numbers, but they agreed that they didn't go to the party to meet a mate.

"We're here for the dogs. It's just a fun event," Ms. McMurrey said.

Still, Ms. McMurrey wouldn't mind meeting a man with a dog, and at the very least the man she dates must adore dogs.

"He doesn't have to have a dog; he just has to like mine if

he wants a second date," she said, laughing.

Pam Hart understands the plight of the single pet owner. She sat at a picnic table at the edge of the sand volleyball court, pulling on a longneck and petting her caramel-colored poodle.

Ms. Hart, 45, has been a member of Animalattraction.com for about three months. She hasn't met anyone she's interested in yet, but with a little luck and more parties like the one at Jack's, she's sure to.

"The dogs have made some friends," she said. "I will, too."