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FALL INTO FUN WITH THE FALL FESTIVAL | BY COZYKITT

It's that time of year, folks! The trees are changing color and we're no longer melting in the harsh summer sun. What better way to celebrate than by visiting Duke's Group Fall Festival on behalf of the Gazette? Before I regale you with the wonderful booths, games, and treats, I want to provide a bit of history regarding the event. I managed to wrangle the darling Buck away from her Corn Maze long enough to ask some questions.

According to Buck, this is the festival's second occurrence, and last year was its highly successful debut. The format for this year is the same, each booth is hosted by citizens for citizens! I did of course ask if the Fall Festival would return next year, and while it's an unofficial answer, Buck did say they'd love for it to come around again. Keep your paws and tails crossed!



I visited at least ten booths, and even created my own. As a new resident, it was heartwarming to see how easy it was to get involved. Bringing together new folks, long term residents, and other guests truly captured the spirit of this beautiful season. But enough of me gushing, I know you want the details of the event itself.

I started my stroll of the festival grounds at my own booth - the Cozy Café. It's a logical place to start, as it has sugar-loaded and caffeinated drinks to give you the energy to keep going. I may be biased, but I highly suggest trying out a classic "Pupkin" Spice Latte for

a true Fall experience.

Once fueled up, I made my way to the Cotton Candy Cart run by Amanda. There's no tricks here, just sweet treats! Mix flavors of cotton candy to your, and your petz, liking! I can't stress enough how light and fluffy, yet flavorful the candy is. She even offers it in both Petz 4 and 5, so any of your darling petz can have a bite!

If you're like me and follow your tummy, you'll be lured into the baking contest next! Hosted by Bunni, guests try their hand at making homemade baked goods. Those who present a scrumptious dish are given access to adopt from a special litter of beautiful fall-colored kittens! And if baking isn't your thing, Bunni has a second booth where tidying up a space in your home earns you surprise gift bags! I won't spoil the fun, but if nothing else motivates you to clean up, this just might! Bunni's booths are both truly productive and wholesome.

The game selection is fun too, so after filling up on coffee and cotton candy (and a few treats snuck from the baking booth) I had to give them a go. First up was Buck's Corn Maze! It's a traditional game, but there's a few fun twists as well. I even met a lovely dane while running around! Needless to say, it's fun even when you get lost.

There is also a plinko board, cornhole toss, guessing games, a brexing game, and a fun mystery bag grab! Trust me, you'll want to bring along several big totes and some petz carriers for your goodies and prizes.

Once you've collected a nice hoard, you can visit the painting booth and get your petz faces done up by Tato! He is a very talented guy, and he has a cute hat. I'd let him paint any of my petz. Adjacent to Tato is a craft tent hosted by Xoops. My petz had loads of fun picking out supplies and making some lovely artwork. While the crafts dried, we wandered over to see the last two (since

we visited) booths. First was a Spooky Film Festival run by Kieran, which provided festival attendees with an opportunity to answer trivia and watch some hair-raising frights. This booth brings out the spirit of Halloween in everyone! I personally won the Slasher genre trivia and got a delightfully frightening feline as my prize.

After getting thoroughly spooked, there was one last booth that was calling for me - Witz's Not-at-all Spooky Magical Cauldron! Here participants are given several options of ingredients to put into the brew, and then see if their wishes come true. Sometimes they do, and other times it's as if the cauldron has a mind of its own. Maybe it was just a little spookier than advertised, but clearly everyone had a lot of fun!

With the moon high in the sky, I decided to end my day at DG's Fall Festival. Bring your walking shoes, there's a lot of ground to cover, and you don't want to miss a thing!







Ralph's Remarks

"What do you love about Fall?" ~ Buck @ Medusa

Autumn is a grand time of year - I finally start feeling comfortable again! I am a very fuzzy black dog in a sweater, and summertime is a bit less than ideal for me. Once I feel the cool breeze and hear the rustle of leaves, I know that respite is on its way. Before long my attire is fashionable again, and it is cozy to be indoors and delightful to be outside as well. I love to look up at golden leaves against a backdrop of brilliant blue sky. Petz can see in 256 colors - did you know that? $\sim Ralph$







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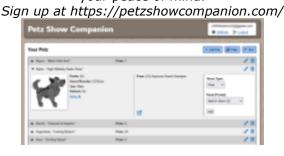
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