

Washington Humane Society 9th Annual Sugar & Champagne Affair

By Andrea "Aunni" Young
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The [Washington Humane Society's](#) held its 9th annual Sugar and Champagne affair at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington recently. WHS honored twelve Humane Law Enforcement and Animal Control Officers who have responded to over 17,000 animal cruelty and control calls in the past year. Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy Lanier was also honored for her staunch support of the HLE and AC team members. The event was hosted by Chef Todd and Ellen Gray of the [Equinox Restaurant](#) and by entrepreneur and philanthropist, Sheila C. Johnson's [Salamander Hospitality](#). The Equinox, an award winning restaurant, is located one block from the White House and the Blair House, and is known for President and Mrs. Obama's visit before taking office. Salamander CEO Sheila C. Johnson, known as [America's first black female billionaire](#), is former wife of BET co-founder Bob Johnson. Salamander represents the name of several luxurious ventures owned by Johnson in Middleburg, VA.



The Sugar and Champagne affair presented the finest pastry and dessert chefs from bakeries and restaurants, showcasing over 30 stations of tasty sweets and treats. Generously flowing champagne and wine was served by several local restaurants and hotels. A fun and creative "Bark Bar", designed by the [Barkley Square Dog Bakery and Boutique](#), featured tasty dog treats for all the fabulous four-legged friends who attended. New to the event was a fabulous VIP Chef tasting room, offering savory tastes and sips from some of the District's finest chefs. Emmy award winning Holly Morris, Fox 5 morning news anchor, emceed this year's affair. A silent auction was held, raising money for WHS. Auction items were impressive, including elite Washington Nationals Baseball packages (with autographed John Lannon baseball), Washington Capitals Hockey Suite with autographed premiere jersey, Herend cat figurines handcrafted and hand painted with 24 carat gold accents, and Washington Mystics tickets and signed poster.

WHS, dating back to 1870, is the only congressionally-chartered animal welfare agency in the United States. WHS protects and assists over 30,000 animals each year. WHS programs and services include shelter, adoption, human law enforcement, spay and neuter, humane education, human –animal rehabilitation, and lost & found.