

# Start Spreading the News



The Krewe of Amalee, Inc. invites you to join us as we transform Downtown DeLand into Barkin', Boots, and Bling for the 2026 Mardi Gras Dog Parade and Festival on Saturday, February 14, 2026.

**This Year's Theme: Barkin', Boots, and Bling**

**The Costume categories this year are:**

Country Hearts

Americana

Neon Nashville

Blue Grass boho

Denim Dog

Cowboy Canine this is child costume category

Honky-tonk Hound

# Barkin', Boots & Bling 2026 – Dog Costume Contest Categories & Ideas

**Country Hearts** – It's Valentine's Day at the Dog Parade, so have your pooch show some love! Hearts, cupids, roses ... but make it country-style. Maybe a pink bandana accompanied with some bling, some pink gingham ruffles, or line your wagon with a country hearts quilt pattern and go to town with heart motifs on your dog's sweater. Or you could flip the script and embody a country heartbreak song like Jolene, Desperado, or Queen of Heartache.

**Americana** – Red, white, and blue go to town! More country quilt applications work for this category – barns & silos, US flags, tractors, antiques. Or dress yourself and your dog as Uncle Sam.

**Neon Nashville** – Pump up the color for this category! Fringe and boots, neon electric guitar, plenty of glitter. A side of Tennessee bar-b-que? Perhaps a hat with a price tag on it if you want to go old-school Nashville (we see you, Minnie Pearl).

**Blue Grass Boho** – A little vintage, a little earthy, throw in some crochet or macrame for the Boho, but the Bluegrass aspect is folksy and acoustic – think banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, Bill Monroe, Alison Krauss, and the Punch Brothers

**Denim Dog** – Barkin', Boots & Bling go perfectly with a denim-dressed dog! You can go simple or add a lot of bling to your denim creation. Of course, sport the country denim yourself!

**Honky Tonk Hound** – For a honkytonk vibe, your pup can be the piano player at a tawdry Texas dance hall, a Hank Williams or Loretta Lynn style country-western singer, or a fringed & flounced dance-hall gal. You can join your hound in the country-western costume fun!

**Cowboy Canine** – (youth category) If you're 15 or under, this may be the category for you, although you could also win in another category. Get that doggie rollin' with a cowboy hat, bandana, some chaps, maybe a lariat. Or get some cowgirl action going with embroidery and fringe, channeling your inner Lucky Prescott. Extra points for youth owner and dog with complementary costumes.