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SUNDAY BRUNCH | El Nino Watch

Every Dog Can Have His Cape

January 11, 1998 | MICHAEL QUINTANILLA

The next time El Nino rains cats and dogs, at least canines can take cover in this stylish rain cape by Rag Dog designer Sharon Day.

Made of Oxford cloth-coated nylon, the waterproof and windproof hooded rain poncho (starting at \$20) includes a drawstring for the right fit. The cape comes in blue, yellow, white, red and fuchsia or the very trendy camouflage. Stores carrying the cape and other Rag Dog apparel and accessories include Euphuria Pet Salon in North Hollywood, Hollywood Hounds in Hollywood and Dungarees in Santa Monica.

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Day, an award-winning costume designer and an animal lover, started Rag Dog because she was unhappy with the quality of poochwear--sweaters and other accessories--available.

"I thought, 'Here's a gap I can fill with my expertise in apparel design.'"

She started with polar fleece items so dogs could enjoy the outdoors in cold weather. But when it started to purr--sorry, pour--rain, Day says fleece wasn't enough to keep her dogs, Charlie Girl and Billie Trout, dry.

Voila! The rain cape, which helps prevent that wet dog smell pets often acquire after walks in the rain, was created. Next for the designing Day is a doggy life jacket for ocean-loving pups and reflective apparel for night walking.

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