

San Ramon vet clinic to hold pet adoption event today

Shelter dogs will be available as part of an effort to find them a home

By Roman Gokhman, STAFF WRITER

Article Last Updated: 10/28/2006 02:41:40 AM PDT

SAN RAMON — In a lot of ways, Smiley is a typically happy dog. In another way, she is not. The 6-year-old Shepherd mix has been living in a shelter since April because her previous owners could not put up with her anxiety caused by a fear of being left alone.

"She's very sweet with people," said Kirsten Park, of the East Bay branch of the Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "Her name is Smiley because she looks like she's smiling all the time. The best home is one where she will not be left alone."

Smiley is just one of many dogs that will be on hand from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at a dog adoption event at Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center and Urgent Care to help local animal rescue groups.

Only shelter dogs will be at the event because October is national "Adopt A Shelter Dog" month.

"There will be quite a variety because there are several breed rescues involved," said Bishop Ranch spokeswoman Tracey Quartaroli.

Groups that will participate are Pug Rescue, German Shepherd Rescue of Northern California, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, Golden Gate Lab Rescue, Bulldog Club of Northern California, Tri-Valley SPCA, Border Collie Rescue and the East Bay SPCA.

Average adoption costs, which include all vaccinations, will be between \$150 and \$250.

The South San Francisco Police Search and Rescue K-9 unit will also be on hand to give demonstrations and introduce their rescue dogs.

There will be a litter of Shepherd-mix puppies available for adoption, along with Smiley, who would be great for a home with a stay-at-home parent so she could get lots of attention, said Lisa Healy, president of the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue.

Park said Smiley was never abused and is good with strangers and children — just not with other dogs.

"Some anxiety can be resolved with medication, just like with humans," she said.

Another dog looking for a home who will be at the adoption event is Roxie, a 4-year-old sheltie mix. Healy said Roxie is well-behaved and enjoys lounging around the house.

"She was on the streets for a while and came in tattered, but she is getting better now," Healy said.

Adoption event participants hope it shines a light on the many dogs waiting for homes that will be euthanized if they are not claimed after their stray hold period, which is usually six days, expires.

Healy said that while the East Bay is lucky in that there are usually not enough homeless dogs to force euthanizations, she still gets lists of dogs that have to be put down every day.

"If they are looking to adopt a dog, consider a shelter dog first," Quartaroli said.

Roman Gokhman can be reached at (925) 416-4849 or at rgokhman@trivalleyherald.com.

