

# It's a dog's life at Woof to Woof festival

Events  
✓ Scotts Valley festival celebrates all things K-9

By Terri Morgan

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**SCOTTS VALLEY »** Passionate about pug dogs, Deborah Hansen traveled from her home in Pismo Beach on Saturday to share her

enthusiasm for the breed with visitors at the Woof-to-Woof dog festival at Skypark.

"They're a companion breed that have very human-like qualities," said Hansen, the president of the nonprofit Central Coast Pug Rescue organization of the flat-faced pooches. "They're very childlike and they're so ugly they're cute."

Standing at the organization's

booth, which offered visitors an opportunity to kiss a pug for \$1, Hansen and the other pug-loving volunteers were looking for dog lovers interested in providing forever homes for adoptable dogs while raising money for the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Pugs, along with dogs of all sizes, shapes, colors and breeds and their people swarmed the

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soccer fields Skypark for the annual festival, which was expected to raise about \$35,000 for the nonprofit agency that provides services that empower individuals who are blind or have limited vision to embrace life to the fullest.

"This is a wonderful event," said Pam Brandin, the executive director of Vista Center. "It's a

DOG » PAGE 3

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LOCAL NEWS

## Dog

FROM PAGE 1

terrific opportunity to get our name out and (bring) people here for a fun day and support the Vista Center."

The organization provides people in Santa Cruz, San Benito, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties with a variety of services, including information and referrals, classes, counseling and support groups, low vision clinics and a health library.

The agency provides services locally at its Laurel Street facility in Santa Cruz, as well as in peoples' homes. More than 95 percent of its clients are older than age 45, and have vision loss due to age-related

illnesses.

The Vista Center provides a great service to the community, said Tory Delfavro, one of about 60 volunteers who donated their time to ensure the festival ran smoothly.

"I love the Vista Center, and I enjoy coming to this beautiful event," Delfavro said. "It's so much fun, and it's really important that people know the Vista Center exists."

The theme of this year's Woof to Woof was Happy Hour, and judging by the number of wagging tails and smiling faces, it appeared to be aptly named. Boo, a black Shiatsu from Ben Lomond, led its owners from booth to booth. Boo took a special interest in the Earthwise Pet Booth, where employees of

the Scotts Valley pet store were handing out free samples of food, treats, colorful bandanas and toys for dogs.

"He doesn't want to leave," said Kathy Livingston as Boo parked himself in the shade of the booth. "He's just having a good time with all the other dogs and the activities."

Those activities included two different Adoptable Dog Parades. David Kunis from the Santa Cruz SPCA led 4-year-old Sunshine around the parade route hoping to find someone who wanted to take her into their family.

"Rescue a dog who will rescue you," Kunis said.

Volunteers for the NorCal Boxer Rescue group, who were passing out information about their favorite breed of dog, also know how

easy it is to fall in love with a canine. Linda Lloyd, who was in the booth with her dog Nico, and Nikki Bailly, had both started out providing foster care for their four-legged friends.

"I fostered him for two months, then I didn't want to let him go," said Linda Lloyd of Nico. "So he's a foster failure and an adoption success."

The festival also featured vendors selling food, displaying products and offering pet sitting, dog training, fitness therapy, veterinary care and photography services for canines and their owners.

Other booths introduced festival attendees to volunteer opportunities and nonprofits, such as the Birchbark Foundation, which



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Peyton Grilli, left, with Jagger, and Deborah Hansen Olive, volunteered their time in the Central Coast Pug Rescue booth at the Woof to Woof Festival on Saturday at Skypark in Scotts Valley.

saved the lives of 37 dogs and cats last year by providing financial aid to people with pets undergoing a medical crisis. The event included several raffles, a costume dog demonstrations, a "tail wagger" contest, an auction and a raffle.