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Pets go home for holidays

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ST. GEORGE - Saturday was a lucky day for Ruby, a chocolate lab-pit bull mix puppy.

The exuberant dog had reached the end of her stay at the St. George Animal Shelter, and would have been euthanized if it hadn't been for 15-year-old Torrie Reed and her mother.

"I feel good, because we're going to bring her home," Reed said.

Ruby was joined by 12 other lucky animals at the shelter who were adopted on Friday and Saturday during the Home for the Holidays pet drive sponsored by P.A.W.S. - Providing Animals With Support.

"She was toward the end of her time here, in fact, today was her last day. But she's going to be adopted and her life is saved," said P.A.W.S. volunteer Sara Post Lee, about Ruby during Saturday's event.

Reed said her family was looking for a dog, and thought Ruby was cute.

The family plans to pick up the dog on Monday, said April McManus, animal control officer.

The adoption brought more than one tear to Lorraine Pakulis' face, the vice president of P.A.W.S.

Pakulis said she still gets emotional when a dog with a short time-line is adopted.

"Especially when it's one I really, really like," she said.

Volunteers at the St. George Animal Shelter had the dogs outside on Saturday. Christmas music played from loudspeakers, and Santa was available for photos with family pets.

Hot dogs and cookies - for both dogs and people - were also available to help raise money for P.A.W.S.

Carol Peckham, president of P.A.W.S., said the St. George Animal Shelter has had more animals this year than last year.

"The shelter is constantly full," Peckham said.

McManus said her cat shelter is almost full.

More animals were looking for good homes in Washington City, where other shelters and rescue organizations also held an adoption drive outside PetCo.

Agencies including BAM (Because Animals Matter), Best Friends, Friends of Ivins Shelter,

Greyhound Adoption and Rescue of Las Vegas, Greyhound Gang from Kanab, Healing Hearts Sanctuary, and Hurricane Shelter Pet Matchers displayed available dogs outside the store and cats inside.

Kristin and Preston Porter were eyeing a larger dog, Brodie, from Best Friends Animal Shelter in Kanab.

Kristin said Preston wanted to come to the adoption drive to look at the dogs available.

Ally Oops, a medium-sized dog, was also looking for a home on Saturday.

Laura Bradshaw, executive director of Healing Hearts Sanctuary, took Ally Oops in with a broken back when she was one year old.

Healing Hearts is a sanctuary for disabled and special needs dogs, Bradshaw said.

While some of Healing Hearts' dogs require a family willing to provide special care for its animals, Ally Oops is more of a mainstream canine.

"Some of our dogs need owners with extra time, but Ally could be in a normal household," Bradshaw said.

Ally Oops learned how to walk again after her injuries healed.

Cathy Williams, a volunteer for Because Animals Matter, said she was happy with the turnout.

"With rescue situations, it's nice to work together and not compete," she said.

The St. George Animal Shelter will be open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Adoptable dogs and cats from many of the area's rescue agencies and shelters can be found at www.petfinder.com

Additional Facts

Info Box

Looking for a pet?

To look at adoptable pets from the area, visit www.petfinder.com.
