

Dogtober' has fair turnout

Paul George
Senior Reporter

Truckee Meadows Community College and Reno dog lovers raised more than \$800 for the United Way at the school's inaugural Dogtoberfest on Oct. 17.

According to Fini Dobyms, project coordinator, there were 28 participants, 13 vendors and many volunteers.

While she hoped the event would raise \$1,000 for charity, Dobyms said she was happy with the \$808 made at Dogtoberfest.

Next year, Dobyms said, coordinators will be more aggressive in getting more vendors involved and will invest more in advertising the event.

Attendees' pets participated in a variety of dog-related events including races, best trick, best costume and biggest and smallest dog. Judges for the contests included TMCC President Maria Sheehan, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra Vice President Teri Juhl-Blackett and television station KOLO reporter Terri Russell.

Many nonprofit organizations provided health, safety and adoption information for attendees.

American Red Cross volunteer Peggy Rew provided information about its pet CPR program and Trail Safe Nevada co-founder Trish Swain explained the dangers of steel claw traps for pet owners living in rural Northern Nevada.

Pet rescue organizations were prominent including PugSavers, Boxers and Buddies and a member of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Boxers and Buddies brought two boxers, three pit bulls and two mixed dogs. An SPCA representative brought Gus, a 5-month-old black pointer mix. Gus was found abandoned in the Nevada desert and rescued.

According to Washoe County Animal Services, it took in 5,929 dogs in 2008.

No dogs were adopted at Dogtoberfest.

"Dogtoberfest exceeded my wildest expectations," Sheehan said. "It was a dog lovers delight and we hope to do it every year," Sheehan said.

Erik Hertle, a TMCC biology student attending the event, was satisfied.

"It was fun," he said.