

Tri-Pawed Pup Beats Odds

by Bend Weekly News Sources

First 3-legged Dog to Qualify for World Frisbee® Championship

Maty, an Australian Shepherd mix is the first three-legged dog to qualify for the Skyhoundz Canine Disc World Championship. The tri-pawed will compete paw-to-paw with four legged competitors from the United States and other countries.

Maty, the Humane Society of Central Oregon's humane education dog, will be competing in honor of the organization and the community that saved her life. This six year old mutt had a difficult start in life. She was abandoned in a Bend motel when she was three weeks old, exposed to a potentially deadly virus and had her leg amputated at eight weeks of age.

Maty the 3-legged dog will compete in the Skyhoundz Canine Disc World Championship. Photo by Cloud9. Maty gives back to the community through her humane education visits to schools, pet therapy visits to patients at the hospital, senior and Alzheimer's care facilities and reaches out to the community at events. Maty is an inspiration to the people she meets and shows that disabled dogs can enjoy a full and healthy life.

Troy Kerstetter, animal welfare director for the Humane Society of Central Oregon, is Maty's throwing partner. "After overseeing the care of nearly 5,000 animals each year, partnering with Maty at disc dog tournaments is a nice diversion. I get to witness what dogs adopted from shelters can do with their new families."

"When Maty is competing, it takes a few throws before people notice that she has only three legs," Kerstetter says. "Maty's disability limits her endurance compared to four legged dogs," explains Kerstetter, "but her enthusiasm and catches in the air are inspiring."

The 32nd Skyhoundz Canine Disc World Championship will be held September 23-24, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia. This is the largest disc-dog series in the world. The Hyperflite Canine disc Championships is the culmination of more than 100 local championships, seven US Regional Qualifier Championships and the World Championship.

For more information visit the Humane Society of Central Oregon at www.hsco.org or www.skyhoundz.com.

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