



PHOTOS BY WHITNEY CURTIS/wcurtis@dailyherald.com

Tom Reese of Harvard receives a kiss from Clyde, an American bulldog who belongs to Kim and Rick Borkus of Naperville, during the Illinois Doberman Rescue Plus reunion. Kisses from Clyde went for \$1 each, with the funds going to the rescue organization.

True puppy love

Celebration brings owners of rescued dogs together

BY HAFSA NAZ MAHMOOD

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Some extra loving was up for grabs in Warrenville Sunday.

Clyde gave dozens of people wet, juicy smooches for just \$1 during the seventh annual Illinois Doberman Rescue Plus reunion. The American bulldog was trying to raise money for a good cause.

One of Clyde's owners, Rick Borkus of Naperville, said his kisses felt like wet sandpaper.

"He's very prim and proper," said Rick's wife, Kim, referring to the way Clyde's front paws were crossed over each other as he waited for his next lover.

All the money raised from Clyde's affection went straight to the rescue organization for future rescue missions.

More than 400 people, their rescued dogs, and others from



Jennifer Budenz of Lafayette, Ind., gives treats to her Dobermans Capone, left, Paisan and Stella on Sunday as husband Tony holds their leashes at the Illinois Doberman Rescue Plus reunion at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville.

all over the Midwest gathered Sunday afternoon at Blackwell Forest Preserve and indulged themselves in games, raffles, auctions, treats, chats and barks.

Event Chairman Kathy Williams reminisced about the first rescue reunion, which con-

sisted of just a few people in a parking lot.

"This is our favorite day of the year," she said. "We love to welcome our dogs back."

The organization rescues and about 500 dogs each year, and the rescue reunion is the group's largest fundraiser of the year.

Williams said she was very pleased with the outcome, and that it's so much fun to listen to stories and see dogs who have been cared for tremendously. And knowing that the organization helped with the dog's survival brought tears to her eyes.

"Once you adopt a dog from us, you become part of the family," Williams said.

Brian and Lori Thompson of Lone Rock, Wis., adopted Cinder last year, and came out to their first rescue reunion.

Cinder was chilling in a small pool for a while and the Thompson's were surprised, especially since she doesn't like baths.

"Cinder is shy, so this is good for her," Lori Thompson said. "It's good to see her with other dogs and see how much she's changed since we got her."

Shannon Conley of Chicago volunteered at the desserts and beverages station, and attended the reunion for the second time.

"Being around a bunch of dogs and dog-lovers is always a fun time," she said, adding with a laugh. "You can discuss things others may find disgusting."