



Dawn Mellen
with Cienna

After The Finish Line

If only that old story about a farm in the country were true. Sadly, many ex-racehorses meet fates far less pleasant than a grassy pasture. Though across the country there are hundreds of rescue and retirement operations that take in thoroughbreds no longer able to race or breed, some of them struggle to stay afloat. Carmel Valley-based nonprofit After the Finish Line provides assistance to such organizations with grants and emergency funding. "All too often, these racehorses that have given their all are not continually supported," says Dawn Mellen, After the Finish Line's director. "These horses can go on to be hunters, jumpers, companions. There is an array of new careers for them." Racing fans, she says, especially should open their hearts and wallets to the animals that have given them so much joy. (www.afterthefinish-line.org) — AnnaMaria Stephens

Green Tip Of The Month

Consider having your prized pooch groomed by Leucadia-based Spawtique Mobile Pet Grooming, an eco-friendly company owned by registered

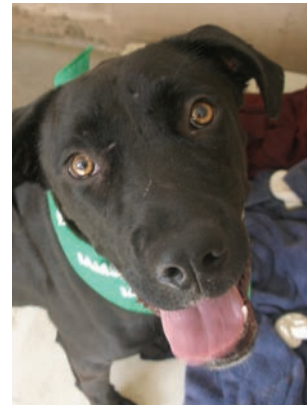
veterinary technician Suzy Korn that incorporates her lifelong love for



animals, personal creativity, and knowledge of animal behavior and health. Spawtique's groomings include a hydromassage bath and blueberry facial, all-natural and organic shampoo and creme rinse, body and face neatening, hand fluffing, and more — all from the comfort of Korn's state-of-the-art self-contained grooming vehicle. She adds, "Spawtique features exclusively all-natural and organic

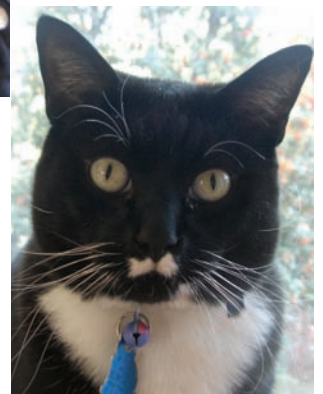
products, so while your beloved pet receives complete one-on-one care in a relaxing and stress-free setting it is not only getting the best products for its health, but also for our environment." (760/815-0562, www.spawtiquegrooming.com) — Mia Stefanko

Adorably Adoptable



Sugar

Sugar is a sweet 2-year-old, female, spayed, Labrador Retriever/Boxer mix. She's eager to please, eager to learn. Best in a home with no other dogs or cats. Fully grown at 50 pounds with the happiest tail you'll ever see! Just add collar, leash, plenty of pep, and lots of TLC. You can adopt Sugar for \$175.



Tabitha

Tabitha is a 4-year-old, female, spayed, Domestic Short Haired feline. She's a professional paw-ty gal elegantly clad in a stylish tux. Tabitha is a good kitty that daydreams about the love her new perfect family will bring. You can adopt Tabitha for \$40.

Kennels are open 11am-6pm every day. Visit the Helen Woodward Animal Center at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe. (858/756-4117, ext. #1, www.animalcenter.org)