



# Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

## Press Release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Sage Mountainfire  
Animal Shelter Adoption Coordinator  
Phone: 707-467-6453

### **Shelter Dogs Photo Exhibit at Local Flavor**

For the month of January, "Shelter Dogs" is a photography exhibit at Local Flavor Bakehouse in Ukiah.

This show is an attempt to share with the community the stories of just a few of the thousands of incredible dogs who pass through the Ukiah Shelter every year. Though they cannot communicate in words, their images speak loudly. The photographs were taken by Sage Mountainfire, the Adoption Coordinator at the Mendocino County Animal Care, with assistance from Kathy Shearn and Rod Coots.

Sage photographs the dogs from the unique perspective of sharing in the care and adoption of the animals. In the photographs, Sage successfully captures the personalities and quirks of the canines.

"Often," says Sage, "we can only guess what their lives were like before they arrived at the shelter; some were loved while others never knew a real home.

Once at the shelter, the dogs live day after day in small concrete kennels with only a bed, a bucket of water, and a bowl of food. Dedicated volunteers come and walk their favorite dogs and take them to the play yard. And then the miracle happens: someone sees a certain dog, falls in love, and decides to bring that dog home."

"In the weeks that follow an adoption, we will often receive a letter or an email, with photos of the same dog, now surrounded by a new, loving family, sleeping on her own comfy bed, or lying in the grass in her new yard. Being part of this miracle is what sustains me throughout the year," reports Sage.



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Sage's passion for the animals she cares for comes through clearly in the photo exhibit. The photographs are not currently for sale, but it is a display worth visiting.

The exhibit is sponsored by Local Flavor Bakehouse, located at 210 South State Street in Ukiah. They are open Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to noon.

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Photos:

**Rio** A Golden Retriever mix adopted from the Ukiah Shelter

**Champ** A Pitbull neutered through the shelter's Pit Fix Program