



A.R.K. Rescue Takes ‘Bones’

Story by John Welsh
Public Information Chief

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JoMarie Upegui pointed at a marble white, greyhound-like dog inside the receiving area of the Coachella Valley Animal Campus.

Even JoMarie was amazed. “Look at her!” she said. “You can’t see the bones now.”

When Animal Control Officer Hector Palafox brought in the dog on Sept. 20, employees at the Thousand Palms-based shelter shook their heads.

“When she came in she was so bone thin,” JoMarie said. “She had no energy at all.”

In fact, the employees had to gingerly help the pathetic-looking, 1-year-old dog onto a scale.

Her weight — 20 pounds — was dangerously low for a dog her age. JoMarie said her bones protruded and she was raw on the thigh areas of her hind legs.

She and Animal Care Technician Will Irwin and other employees tag-teamed to make sure she’d have a comeback.

“Everyone was calling her ‘Bones’ because of her condition,” JoMarie said. “I don’t think it’s a very pretty name, but that’s how we all got to know her. She was so starving.”

Now?

Now she’s 33 pounds and so playful.

Officer Palafox got the call to pick her up in the Coachella area where she apparently was trying to attack children. But the officer found her to walk very well on a leash and, actually, very loving.

“We’re buddies,” JoMarie said. “She’s my pal.”

JoMarie happily said goodbye to her friend on Thursday, Oct. 1, when the good people of the Animal Rescue Kompany, or A.R.K., agreed to take over responsibility of Bones. Joy Hunter and Michael Brown represented the Murrieta-based, nonprofit rescue group in the



RECOVERY — A revitalized dog, nicknamed “Bones,” kisses Michael Brown of Animal Rescue Kompany, one of Riverside County’s nonprofit, adoption partners. The dog weighed in at a meager 20 pounds on her impound day. Veterinary Technician JoMarie Upegui, above right, and Animal Care Technician Will Irwin helped in her major comeback.

official pickup. They will continue improving her health and then find her a lifelong home. A.R.K. can be reached at (951)

677-5998 or mwood41@verizon.net or check out the group’s Web site at animalrescuekompany.com