

Olympian Bahrke to judge Tails in Tahoe

Two-time Olympic freestyle medalist Shannon Bahrke will be the guest of honor at the inaugural Tails in Tahoe weekend June 5-6.

The two-day event will include a host of pet-related activities aimed at raising awareness about animal well-being and funds for the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe. Events will be in Tahoe City and the River Ranch Lodge.

Bahrke, a native of Tahoe City who most recently won a bronze medal at the Vancouver Olympics, is an avid animal lover and will be honored with a homecoming celebration by the North Tahoe/Truckee community.

“I am truly honored and humbled to have a homecoming in my honor,” Bahrke, a 1998 graduate of North Lake Tahoe High School, said in a press release. “I come from such a wonderfully supportive community and I am so excited to share my Olympic success with everyone. I certainly was the one who stood at the top of the course and skied, but what I don’t think people realize is every person from Tahoe has had a hand in getting me there. Helping animals is one of my passions and to be able to do this while I’m back home is amazing.”

The weekend kicks off on June 5 with the K-9 Encounters Pet Expo at the Boatworks Mall Green in Tahoe City. Activities will include Humane Society pet adoptions, a dog wash, a Kids Pet Art Show, the North Tahoe Frisbee Fetch Championships, an agility demonstration by the Ready 2 Run Agility Club, an “Ask a Trainer” session by Ace K-9 Academy, the Strut Your Stuff with Your Mutt Fashion Show and the Hometown Hero presentation to Shannon Bahrke. Live music and an outdoor BBQ will complement the afternoon activities, which run from noon-3pm.

On June 6, the River Ranch Lodge hosts the Seventh Annual Truckee Duckee Derbee and the Dogz in Dudz Contest on its outdoor deck. The rubber duck races are called the "most unpredictable two minutes in Tahoe," as the rubber duckies must negotiate the fickle currents and eddies of the Truckee River. Cost to sponsor a duck is \$10 and the top five ducks are awarded a portion of the overall pot.

The Dogz in Dudz Contest precedes the Derbee and prizes will be awarded to the most stylish and creative canines. There is no cost to enter the contest. All canine companions are encouraged to wear their favorite K-9 T-shirts (think Black Dog, Big Dog, Naughty Dawg). A special prize will be awarded to the crowd favorite.

Live music, a huge raffle and an outdoor barbecue add to the festivities.

Bahrke, who has two canine companions, will serve as the head judge for Dogz in Dudz Contest.

The TDD pre-race party starts at 2pm with live music and registration for Dogz in Dudz. The costume contest will start at 3pm followed by the TDD at 4pm.

For more information and pet-friendly accommodations go to gotahoenorth.com or call (530) 581.0181.