

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

Seized pitbulls up for adoption

By Ashley Meeks Sun-News reporter

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LAS CRUCES - Her muzzle is lined with dozens of scars, hairless, near-black lines authorities say are left over from being used to train fighting dogs.

But despite her name and her alleged dark past, Stormy is not a tempestuous beast. She springs after rubber squeak toys. She rolls on her back in the dirt when offered a belly scratch. She licks any willing human face with gusto.

Stormy is one of nine pit bulls seized from brothers Daron and Duryea Scott deemed suitable for adoption in the last week, according to county animal control director Curtis Childress.

Some dogs have been staying with foster families, while others have been moved from the county shelter to an undisclosed off-site facility.

"Five animals are ready for adoption," Childress said. "That's good news."

Three others will probably have to be euthanized. One was put down recently because its teeth were filed down to the roots and it was in constant pain, Childress said.

The 12 dogs are the last of the dozens seized from the Scott brothers in an investigation into dog-fighting charges that were dropped on a technicality. The Scotts maintained the dogs were part of a show dog breeding operation. Some were relinquished and six were seized for legal costs.

process or an adoption process?"

The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico board will discuss taking the pit bulls at its next meeting Wednesday, said Maryln Zahler, former animal control reserve volunteer coordinator for the county.

"I would really like to see them get good homes," Zahler said Friday. "They've got bad raps, but my concern is, it's always the person. I can take any dog and make it vicious. If you're going to mistreat them, if you're going to beat them, yeah, they're going to become pretty vicious. But these dogs have had a lot of love and care."

Anyone interested in adoption or in fostering animals - a constant need - is encouraged to call the sheriff's office at (575) 525-1911.

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