

TEMPLE

Shipping hike increases dog adoption fees

By Nick Martin

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TEMPLE — The Second Chance Sato Rescue in Temple, an organization dedicated to rescuing abandoned and abused dogs from Puerto Rico, has been struggling to keep adoption fees down recently.

The organization, which has rescued 168 dogs since its formation in December 2007, has had to raise the adoption fee to \$340 to help offset new costs associated with shipping the dogs from Puerto Rico, said the organization's founder Mark Raposo.

The cargo company that used to fly the dogs in for free was bought out, and the new company won't be flying into Hartford, Conn. So the organization has had to place dogs on commercial airliners, which costs about \$150 per crate.

"Our hope is to get additional donations or do fundraising to get the adoption fee down to something more manageable," Raposo said.

The organization got some unexpected financial help a few weeks ago when students at Temple Elementary School presented Raposo with money they had raised through bake sales.

"On the last day of school they called me into the gym and presented me a check for more than \$265," Raposo said. "It came as a complete shock to me and I was very happy."

Chris Chamberlain, a vol-

unteer for the organization, has helped plan Saturday's basketball and bake sale fundraiser. Each participant will be charged \$10 to play in the tournament.

On Saturday, Second Chance Sato Rescue will hold a 3-on-3 basketball tournament for local students in grades one through eight at South Meadow School, as well as a bake sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school.

"People can also come meet some of the dogs we have for adoption," she said.

Second Chance Sato Rescue in Temple (sato is Puerto Rican slang, meaning stray or street dog) works with Second Chance Animal Rescue in Puerto Rico to bring stray dogs to the U.S. for adoption. After the dogs arrive in the U.S. they get a check-up and a clean bill of health from the N.H. Department of Agriculture. The organization is based at Raposo's home in Temple, but the dogs only stay there for a short while before being placed with foster families in the Temple area. The dogs live with those foster families until a permanent family adopts them.

The organization's work saves many dogs from hard lives on the street, Chamberlain said.

"Dogs are just dying on the side of the road," Chamberlain said of the situation in Puerto Rico. "Some of the dogs that we get are maimed. Some have had machetes used on them. A lot of dogs are really abused down there."