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'Oreo' is known around town

By REBECCA BRIA
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Cinders has been a staple of Ochman's Coins and Jewelry in Dallas for the past 12 years, greeting customers and passers-by.

But now Cinders, who belongs to Ochman's owner Maryann Ochman, has a new friend. Oreo, the dog of Ochman's employee Mary Ann Wintersteen, of Harveys Lake, often joins Cinder at the family business.

Wintersteen had two poodles over the years who had passed on and she wanted a new one.

Oreo, a Parti Poodle, a breed created by mating a white poodle with a black poodle, came from a puppy mill in Lancaster and was brought to the Luzerne County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (S.P.C.A.).

Wintersteen and Oreo met at the S.P.C.A. in February 2009 and Wintersteen adopted her.

"I was so depressed for a dog and I only wanted a poodle," Wintersteen said.

But Wintersteen acknowledges having Oreo has not been an easy journey at times.

Shortly after bringing Oreo home, Wintersteen discovered the dog was not spayed properly and she took it to an emergency

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Mary Ann Wintersteen
Dog owner

animal hospital, a trip that cost her \$800.

Then Wintersteen noticed a spot on one of Oreo's eyes. Her veterinarian, Robert Bishop, D.V.M., referred her to veterinary ophthalmologist Jerome Glickstein, V.M.D.

Wintersteen takes off every Friday from work and goes to various places across the state with Oreo to see Glickstein, who is from Langhorne but travels to veterinary clinics across the state.

Oreo has an ulcer that spread to both of her eyes, but Wintersteen says the doctor believes her sight is improving.

"We think she's 4 years old," Wintersteen said of the dog. "At first, I thought I was going to give her back because she was so hard for me to warm up to. I love her now; I wouldn't give her away for a million dollars."

Oreo now often goes to work, dressed in shirts and coats, with

Wintersteen where she interacts with Cinders and the customers.

"I brought her bed and her food and everything here and she stayed in the corner but after a couple of weeks she became too friendly," Wintersteen said of Oreo's environment at the jewelry store. "She dances; she's a really happy dog."

Cinders and Oreo have become friends and Cinders even sleeps at Wintersteen's house when Ochman goes out of town.

Ochman also got Cinders at the Luzerne County S.P.C.A. but does not know his breed.

She said some customers like to bring him treats and guess his breed while others call him the mayor of Dallas because he watches over everything.

"Mary Ann's dog likes to stay behind the counter in her little bed," Ochman said of Oreo. "Cinders kind of has the run of the store because he's been here for 12 years."



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Mary Ann Wintersteen, left, and Oreo with Fran Ochman, right, and Cinders greet customers each day at Ochman's Jewelers in Dallas.

Lehman students frolic at winter semi-formal

Students from Lake-Lehman School District converged on Irem Temple Country Club in Dallas on Wednesday, Dec. 23, to enjoy their annual holiday semi-formal.



Christopher Cain places a wrist corsage on Jen Spera.



ABOVE: Mikayla Orrson, left, and Hunter Lefkoski get in the spirit of the dance.



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The Electric Slide is always a popular dance.

AT RIGHT: Aaron Hogan captures memories of his classmates on film. From left, are Caity Wright, Justin Rice and Lauren Boyle.



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