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Local pup is wellness ambassador



LOTS TO BARK ABOUT—Landon has been an actor, model and “spokesdog.” Now the Thousand Oaks pooch has teamed with ISD Innovations to promote animal-assisted therapy.

Landon the Sheltie, a certified therapy dog that lives in Thousand Oaks, was recently appointed as the Wellness Ambassador for ISD Innovations, a nonprofit organization that supports projects to improve mental health and well-being.

The dog represented ISD Innovations at Oxnard College’s Prevention Week from May 1 through 4 on the campus.

Also in attendance was ISD Innovations’ most recent partner, Scholastic Robotics, which has created a robotic dog named Ricky that is used in the treatment of children with autism.

Landon and Ricky are now serving as advocates for animal-assisted therapy.

In 2009, Landon was hit by a car and abandoned. After being found by a Good Samaritan, Landon, who was severely injured, was placed in an animal emergency center and later in an animal shelter.

Southland Sheltie Rescue volunteer Connie Coleman rescued Landon and adopted him.

About a year later, Landon appeared in a canine fashion show fundraiser for the Beverly Hills-based animal rescue organization The Amanda Foundation. Dressed in a Louis XIV style outfit, Landon received worldwide press.

Landon then attended animal acting school and worked in a variety of modeling and acting jobs.

In 2012, recognizing the potential of Landon’s story of resiliency and success, Coleman created an educational program that she and Landon presented at Boys & Girls Clubs in Southern California. The program told Landon’s story and also shared his 10 tips for a happy, healthy life.

This educational program became the catalyst for Landon’s new ambassador role at ISD Innovations.

For more about Landon, see www.landonthesheltie.com.

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