



**VOYAGER HOUND:** Since his adoption from an animal shelter seven years ago, pound dog poster boy Oscar has travelled the world with his owner Joanne Lefson visiting impounded dogs like the terrier puppy Port Alfred SPCA inspector Anel Slabbert is holding while local chair Rudene Gerber looks on

Picture: DAVID MACGREGOR

# Star pooch helps PA pound pets

By **DAVID MACGREGOR**  
Port Alfred Bureau

PORT Alfred dog-lovers dug deep into their pockets on Saturday night to wine and dine with a high-flying hound who has clocked up more than 300 000 kilometres since he was rescued from a dog pound seven years ago.

Over R15 000 was raised for the cash-strapped local SPCA as Oscar and his owner Joanne Lefson had the 120-strong crowd in stitches, recounting their madcap adventures travelling the world to highlight the plight of pound pets.

While guests tucked into a fancy three-course meal, the

clean-cut canine – who looked dashing in a blinged-out diamante collar – went walkabout at the 19th hole of the Royal Port Alfred Golf Club signing autographs for dazzled diners.

Copies of Oscar and Joanne’s amusing *Ahound the World* book, detailing their globetrotting adventures, sold like hot cakes as animal-lovers lined up to get the pampered pooch to stamp his paw mark on the inside cover.

Over the past two years, Oscar has become quite the jetsetter, visiting more than 35 countries on five continents – getting more frequent flyers miles under his collar than most people.

During his travels, Oscar – who himself was living on borrowed time at the Cape Town SPCA before Lefson met him when he “was just one day away” from being dispatched to hound heaven by lethal injection – spends time at dog pounds in every country he visits.

A true “pavement pointer”, the 2 kg canine is a real liquorice allsorts of dog breeds, including Alsatian, corgi, cocker spaniel and bas-set.

When Lefson sold her Cape Town house almost two years ago to take her precious pooch around the world, people thought she was nuts.

They really thought she had

lost the plot when she “married” the mutt in Vegas months later to highlight the fact that animal adoption is “until death do us part”.

Stressing the importance of sterilisation, Lefson said two dogs and their offspring could produce 67 000 other dogs in six years if not neutered.

Yesterday, Oscar and Lefson visited dogs’ “death row” at the Port Alfred SPCA with collars and leashes before flying back to Cape Town.

SPCA’s Rudene Gerber yesterday said they were battling to survive each month since the local municipality stopped paying the SPCA agreed funds to run the municipal animal pound for them.