

Sparky helps early readers and Pets Unlimited

Sparky, an 8-year-old lovable pointer-pit bull mix, is the subject of three books for beginning-to-early readers: *Sparky's Walk*, *No Rest for Sparky* and *Sparky Coast to Coast*. Rick Arruzza, author of the Sparky series, and Sparky's adoptive guardian, will be visiting San Francisco to introduce the newest book in his series, *Sparky's Big Race*.

Arruzza has scheduled Sparky book readings at Cesar Chavez Elementary School, Monday, Feb. 12; Dianne Feinstein Elementary School, on Wednesday, Feb. 14; and Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary School, Friday, Feb. 16.

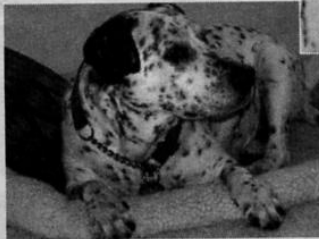
And with each Sparky book sold in San Francisco, \$1 will be donated to Pets Unlimited.

"I hope that Sparky can help out Pets Unlimited and raise some money to aid their efforts to place unwanted dogs and cats in loving homes," Arruzza said. "I'm also looking forward to visiting the kids at the schools. Cesar Chavez has supported the Sparky books since the start in 2003, and I think some of the students there know

Sparky's story better than I do!"

Sparky herself narrowly escaped a death sentence at a New York City dog pound

more than seven years ago. Arruzza adopted Sparky from Adopt-A-Dog, a Greenwich, Connecticut-based animal rescue organization, and one of the reasons he began writing the Sparky books was to thank



that agency for saving such a wonderful dog.

The Connecticut author also works with Pet Rescue in Miami and Animal Haven in New York City, with donations from book sales in those cities going to their respective organizations.

Sparky's Big Race is a new twist on the old fable *The Tortoise and the Hare*, as Sparky races her pals Speedy the tortoise and Maggie the bunny down the street. All of Sparky's books are available on Sparky's Web site, www.sparkywalk.com, as well as at Amazon.com.