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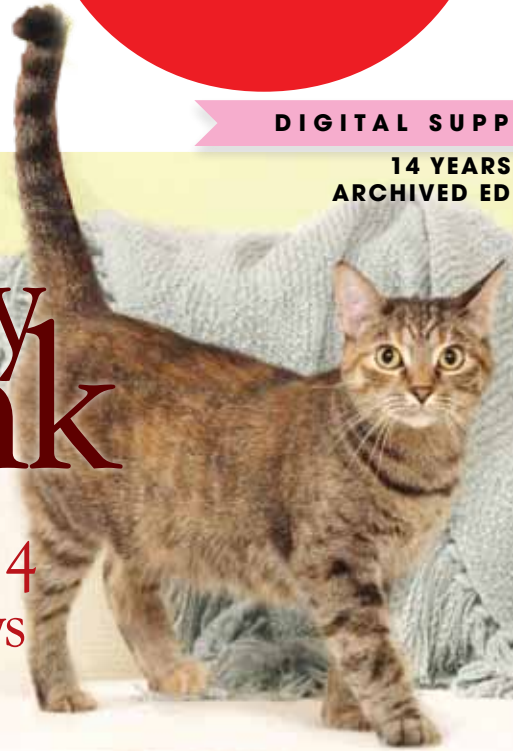
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## Hilary Swank

*Talks about  
Iams Home 4  
the Holidays*

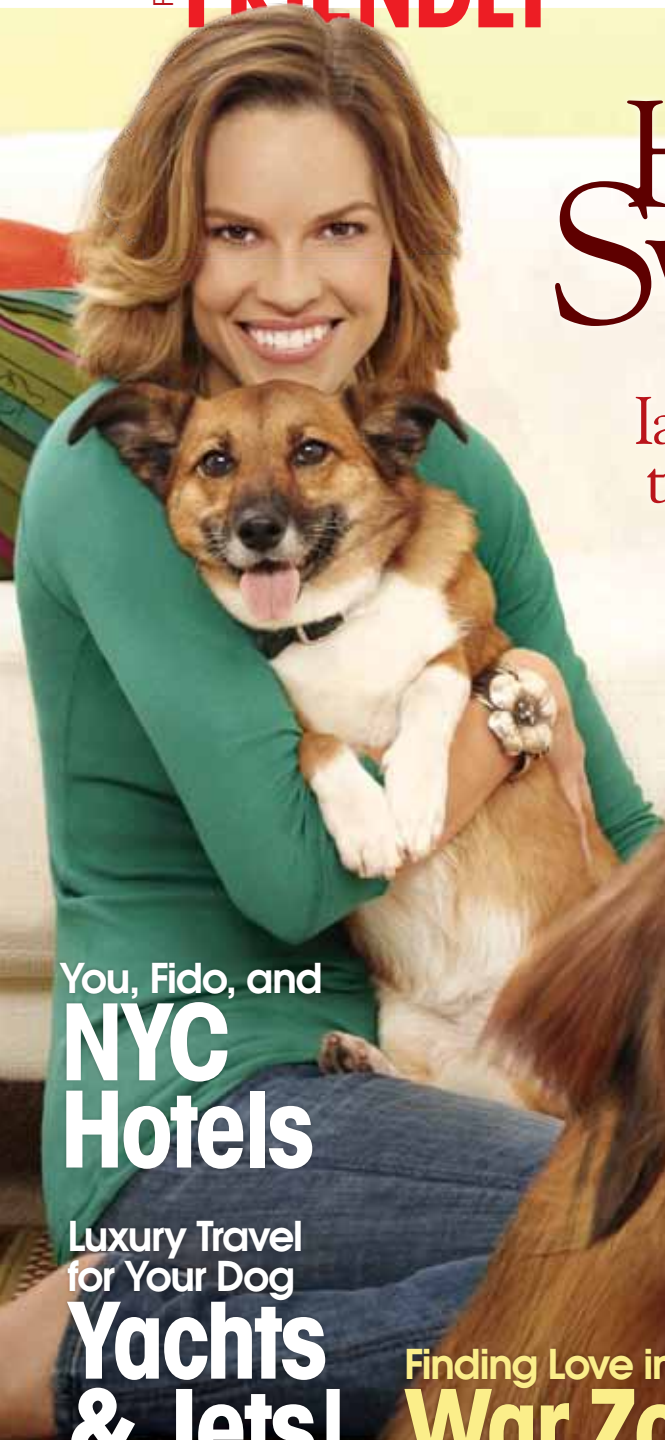


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[ ISSUE 64.2 ]

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## THE FF VAULT!



Editor's black lab, Tasha,  
always up for playing.

**W**elcome to an archived issue of *FIDO Friendly* magazine straight from The Vault! If you are new to *FIDO Friendly*, or if you have been with us for the past 14 years, you won't want to miss an archived issue each month to compliment your *FIDO Friendly* library of great topics and places to stay.

Be sure to click on the links to learn more about destinations and advertisers and please remember to check with hotels before booking your stay in the event their pet policies or rates have changed.

Whether you read *FIDO Friendly* online or in print, I hope you enjoy your new digital supplement from The Vault!

**NICHOLAS SVESLOSKY**

Editor-in-Chief



### On the Cover

Hilary Swank

Iams: Home for the Holidays PAGE 8



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Boo Boo's Best

# Puppy Mill to Posh Life

Bisous is one of more than 200 dogs rescued in April from commercial breeders.

By **Cathy Scott**, BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY STAFF WRITER

**A**n Italian greyhound rescued from a commercial breeder as part of the Pup My Ride program is now living well. Bisous, one of more than 200 dogs rescued in April from commercial breeders in the Midwest, is now living the good life because he has a real life now.

Bisous, who had an old fracture in one of his front legs, not only got necessary corrective surgery, but he also got a new mom to boot.

And instead of spending his life outdoors in a cramped wire cage, Bisous's favorite place to nap is on his new person's lap. And as for Bisous's adopter, Sony Schotland who is co-founder and board member of Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons (ARF), she could not be happier with her new housemate. When Michele Forester, director of ARF, first saw Bisous, she immediately thought of Schotland. "I know what a great lover of Italian greyhounds she is," she said. "I chose him to go back to ARF."

The rescue operation was the first of the Pup My Ride program that transports unwanted dogs from commercial breeding kennels to shelters where they can find homes. ARF plans to take 15 more dogs the next time the Best Friends team heads to the Midwest for Pup My Ride.

"When puppy mill breeders can't profit from their breeding 'stock' anymore, they no longer want them," said Kelli Ohrtman, specialist for

Best Friends' Puppies Aren't Products campaign. "The unwanted dogs are mostly old, non-producers, puppies with health issues or those that breeders simply can't sell to pet stores and don't want to keep for breeding. Thousands of dogs face certain death for these reasons—unless they can make it into rescue."

It was on a trip to Missouri in the summer of 2008, Ohrtman said, that Best Friends met with several local Missouri animal advocates where the question was asked, "What needs to be done?"

"The answer was clear," Ohrtman said. "Move more dogs out." The need was brought back to Best Friends, the project was approved and planning began."

And Sony Schotland, who lives in the Hamptons on the east end of Long Island, NY, is glad that



**WHEN PUPPY MILL BREEDERS CAN'T PROFIT FROM THEIR 'STOCK,' THEY NO LONGER WANT THEM.**


Pup My Ride brought Bisous to her. When he was rescued, he couldn't stand on his front right paw. Now, said Forrester, "His leg is healed. He just got his cast off. He looks fantastic."

Forrester could hardly wait for Bisous to meet Schotland, whose Italian greyhound, Niles, had passed away a few months earlier. "Sony was away on vacation," she said. "When she got back, I told her, 'I have a surprise for you.'"

Forrester sat Schotland down on a sofa in a meet-and-greet room and went back to the adoption center to get Bisous. "I brought him to her and put him in her lap," she said. "Sony was so excited to have him. It was amazing to watch. They love each other." Schotland, who is from France, named him Bisous (pronounced Beezoo), which, translated from French, means "kisses."

Out of all the dogs rescued on that particular Pup My Ride run, Bisous was Best Friends' photographer Sarah Ause's favorite.

"I guess I fell for him because, unlike all the other dogs, he was so timid," Ause said. "While the others were all going crazy jumping on the kennel doors and barking, he just kind of stood in the back. And it wasn't that he was so afraid of people, but I think more the situation."

Ause was "so happy to learn that ARF was taking him," she said. "And then they said he was already set to go home with an ARF founder. After what he's been through," she continued, "he totally deserves to be pampered in the Hamptons. What a change of scenery for him!" 



Sony Schotland, who lives in the Hamptons, is glad that Pup My Ride brought Bisous to her.





Loews pet-friendly staff offers pet-walking services, RIGHT.

# Park Avenue Style

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**I**n the heart of New York City, Loews Regency Hotel provides true Park Avenue luxury: plush, stylish guest rooms; warm, personalized service; and cosmopolitan nightlife courtesy of Feinstein's at the Regency.


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As part of the Loews Loves Pets program, your VIP (Very Important Pet) will be waited on hand and paw with very special amenities.

Loews Hotels also offer a "Puppy Pager" service, which equips guests visiting with pets with a pager or cell phone to allow hotel staff to contact them immediately if there is a pet-related emergency.

To ensure that guest rooms are ready for non-pet owners, each hotel has established special cleaning procedures for pet stays, including the use of HEPA-filtered vacuums so that all traces of pet allergens are removed in preparation of the next guest.

Whether you are staying for a day or for a week, the staff at the Loews Regency will roll out the red carpet for both you and Fido. 



## IF YOU GO

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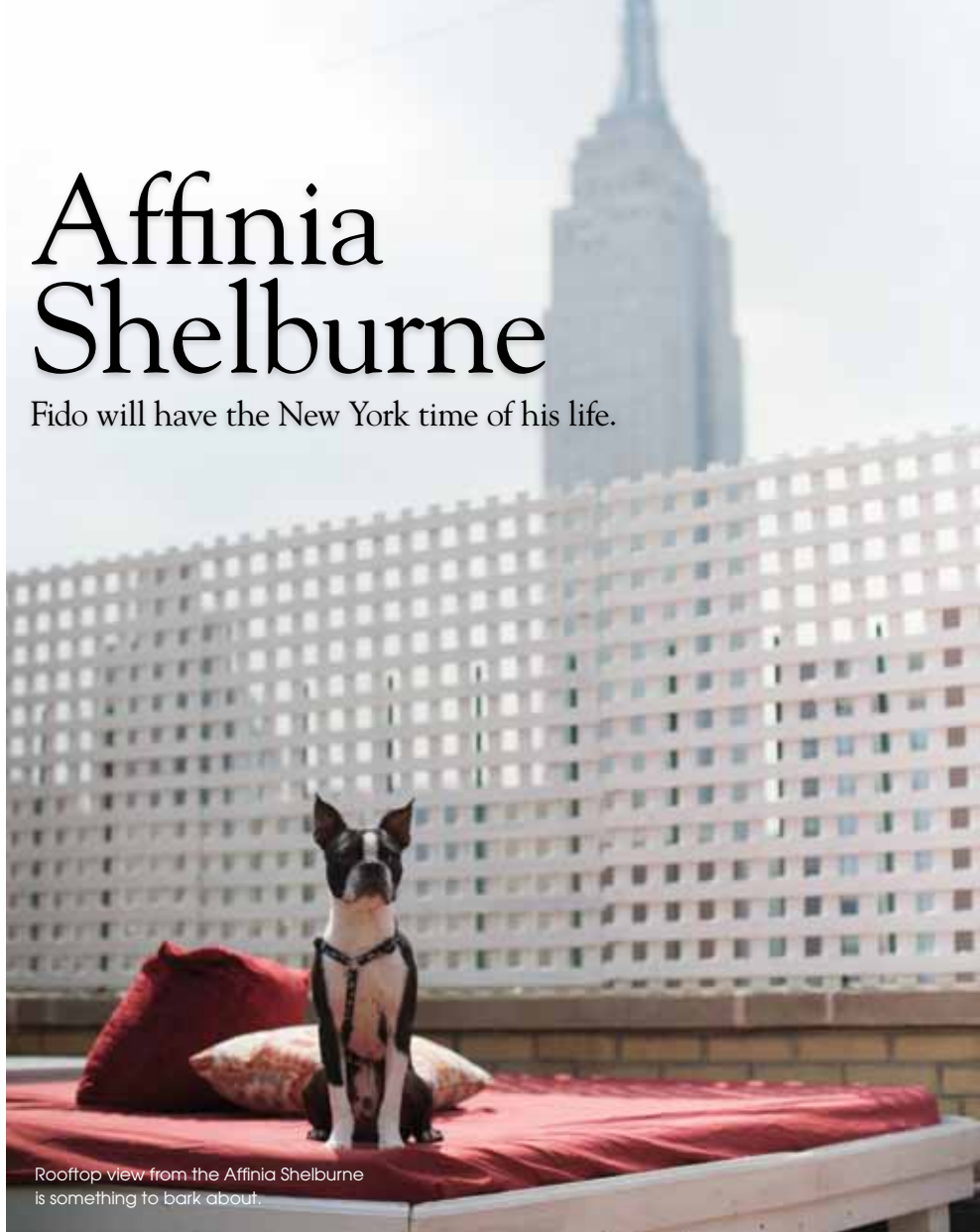


Signature canvas water bowl and organic treats await Fido's arrival.



# Affinia Shelburne

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Rooftop view from the Affinia Shelburne is something to bark about.

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Set in the Murray Hill neighborhood in Manhattan, the new Affinia Shelburne provides a Cityscape experience—a relaxed, residential-style atmosphere combined with insider's access to New York's best-kept secrets. Did you forget your favorite pillow? No worries as you can choose from a menu of six pillows on which to rest your weary head when staying at the Affinia Shelburne. And since we are talking about relaxing, add an in-room spa treatment from SPAffinia<sup>SM</sup> after you and Fido have been out on the town.

Urban, classic and comfortable, the hotel's 268 guest rooms and suites feature open floor plans and custom vanity/wardrobes with well-lit dressing areas with an ottoman. All furnishings were custom-designed, including headboards with built-in reading lights, and laptop side tables. The rooms and suites range in size from 325 square feet to 850 square feet.

Spa-like bathrooms feature granite countertops, plush towels and luxurious Aveda bath amenities. The hotel's one-bedroom deluxe guest rooms have separate living rooms. Deluxe rooms feature modern, granite pantries and refrigerators.

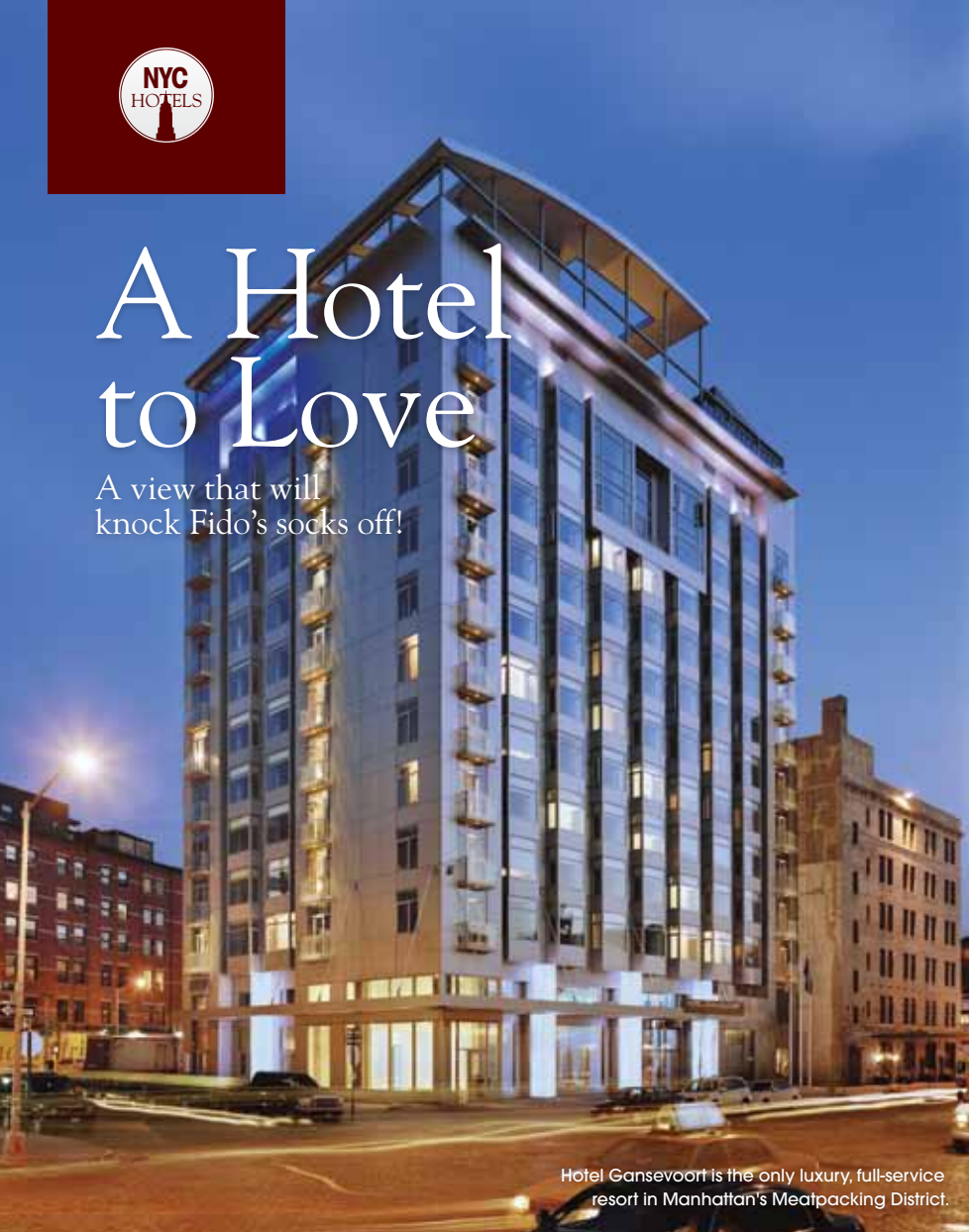
The friendly staff at the Affinia Shelburne want to make certain both you and your furry best friend are having the New York time of your lives and take the worry out of traveling with your best friend by providing Fido with their Jet Set Pets<sup>TM</sup> program.

With Affinia's Jet Set Pets<sup>TM</sup> program, your four-legged traveling companion will be as welcome and as comfortable as you are. Call or e-mail the Affinia Shelburne when you book your stay and they will be ready with treats, a welcome walk and plenty of pampering. 



# A Hotel to Love

A view that will knock Fido's socks off!



Hotel Gansevoort is the only luxury, full-service resort in Manhattan's Meatpacking District.


**H**otel Gansevoort, with breathtaking 360-degree panoramic views of New York City and sunsets over the Hudson River, is the first and only luxury, full-service resort in Manhattan's vibrant Meatpacking District.

Fido is welcomed upon arrival with a fantastic basket of goodies personalized with his name. It is entirely possible that your dog will be seeing many other Fido guests during his stay, as the Hotel Gansevoort reserves one floor especially for pets. After you have walked and shopped and visited a few doggy "fun areas," such as the Union Square Dog Park and George's Dog Run, your tired pooch can rest up while you enjoy the rooftop pool.

The 45-foot heated, outdoor, glass-surrounded swimming pool on the hotel rooftop features underwater music and colored lighting. Open 365 days of the year, the rooftop pool is the first of its kind in Manhattan.

You can also dine at Ono, featuring Sushi and Robatayaki before turning in for the night, certain to get a restful sleep on plush feather beds with goose down pillows and hypo-allergenic duvets.

You may want to dip your toes in one of the three ambient infinity-edge hydro pools, step into a steam room, take in a yoga class, or indulge in a variety of spa treatments at the Hotel's Lower Level.

The Plunge rooftop restaurant provides a beautiful view and breakfast fare. Scramble a few eggs to go for Fido before you check out, even though you are soon to be back again on your next NYC adventure. 



45-foot outdoor swimming pool on hotel's rooftop first of its kind in Manhattan.



Duplex living room at Hotel Gansevoort.



Fido is welcomed with a basket of goodies.



## IF YOU GO

### HOTEL GANSEVOORT

18 Ninth Avenue (at 13th Street),  
New York, NY 10014; \$425+; no weight  
restrictions. \$100 pet fee, per pet;  
Pet sitting by request (212) 206-6700;  
[www.hotelgansevoort.com](http://www.hotelgansevoort.com).

### PET AMENITY

Fido is welcomed upon arrival with a fantastic basket of goodies personalized with his name provided by the Barking Zoo, a local doggy boutique. Items include: *Floor mat with dog's name embroidered on it; Healthy organic treats; NYC-themed cookies in the shape of a taxi, the Empire State Building and one that says I ♥ NY; Pet drinking/water bottle; Paw wipes; and toy.*

And if that's not enough of a royal welcome, the Hotel Gansevoort also provides a collar tag for your pet that reads: *I am staying at the Hotel Gansevoort.*



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Dr. Michealle Hobler DVM, Milliken Animal Clinic

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PHOTOGRAPH BY NILE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHY





Blake Stouffer and  
Douglas prepare to  
travel to South Florida  
with Air Platinum Club.



# Finding Love in a War Zone

How an unexpected deployment to Iraq leads to finding love in the desert.

By Kerri Fivecoat-Campbell

**T**he desert can be a lonely place. Especially for a young woman enlisted in the military, thousands of miles away from her family and friends. And it was lonely—until a little bundle of furry love was scooped out of a trash pit and placed into her arms.

Getting deployed to Iraq was the last thing Gwen Beberg expected. “I wanted to be in the band and was finishing band school when they changed my assignment and made me a mechanic,” says Beberg.

When she was deployed near the end of what was supposed to be her enlistment, she was lonely and felt alone.

That’s when Ratchet came into her life.

## A Mother’s Day Gift

As Beberg recalls, it was a Sunday, Mother’s Day in 2008, when two of her fellow soldiers heard a puppy crying in the trash pit. “They scooped him out and dusted him off,” says Beberg. Although the pit was always smoldering and was actually burning that morning, the little puppy seemed okay—except for being dirty.

The guys in Beberg’s unit brought the pup into her and she used her shampoo to give him a bath. “He was originally stuck with the name Heath Cliff, but everyone decided he couldn’t be named for a cat,” Beberg says, laughing.

Stray dogs aren’t rare in Iraq and although there were military rules against caring for, taking in, or feeding animals or pets, there were already several being cared for on Beberg’s base, which was a little outpost located Southeast of Baghdad.

“We were mechanics, so we named them after tools, and there was already a Hammer and Torque,” says Beberg. “So, we named him Ratchet.”

## OPERATION BAGHDAD PUPS

Every animal in the Operation Baghdad Pups program must already have a home in the states before being accepted. SPCA International carefully screens the soldier to make sure they are aware of the potential challenges they and their families might face as the dog or cat they have befriended adjusts to living in a real home and no longer in the middle of a war zone.

[www.baghdadpups.com](http://www.baghdadpups.com)

Beberg thinks Ratchet fell into the pit while scavenging for food with his mother, who had been seen several times. She estimates that Ratchet was only about one month old at the time.

“I fed him some scrambled eggs and shelf milk and he pretty much slept all that first day,” says Beberg, who fixed Ratchet a temporary bed in a plastic drawer.

Although many in the unit cared for Ratchet, even receiving care packages of dog food and home baked dog treats from some of the wives of guys in the unit, it was Beberg who bonded the closest with Ratchet. Beberg’s father is a dog obedience trainer, and Beberg knew enough about training to teach Ratchet basic commands. “He had seven commands down within two months,” says Beberg. “Here’s this little two-month-old pup; he’s very smart.”

There was a no fraternizing policy and Beberg says she joked with others, “I finally have a man I can hug and kiss on.”





**...MORE THAN 77,000 SIGNATURES  
WERE COLLECTED ON A PETITION TO  
GET RATCHET BACK TO THE STATES.**

### Looks Dickey for Ratchet

By the time Beberg's deployment was nearing its end in the fall of 2008, Beberg knew she couldn't leave Ratchet to fend for himself. "I knew if I left him and he was set loose, he would become wild," says Beberg. "Stray dogs [in Iraq] are like coyotes are to ranchers here. I knew he would be killed."

Beberg started what she described as a "tireless search" for a way to get Ratchet home. She found Operation Baghdad Pups, who said they would help. On the first day Ratchet was to travel, she snuck him onto a convoy for transport to the airport over an hour away. "Someone told on me," Beberg says. When the vector patrol was sent to confiscate and possibly shoot Ratchet, another friend of Beberg's hid him.

After Beberg contacted her Congressman and a friend, who is a professional blogger, wrote about Ratchet's plight, more than 77,000 signatures were collected on a petition to get Ratchet back to the states.

It took several false starts, a network of friends

hiding Ratchet in Iraq and ended with Beberg's demotion from sergeant to specialist and a transfer away from her unit, but Ratchet finally made it home to Minnesota in October to live with Beberg's parents until she could join him when she returned home.

### A Hero's Welcome

On February 7, 2009, Beberg returned home to a hero's welcome. The VFW post in her hometown in Minnesota threw a party for her that included the Patriot Guard, family, friends, press from all over the world and of course, Ratchet.

"My mom told me that I had to hug her first," says Beberg, who still holds back tears thinking of the day she was reunited with her beloved dog. "I came around a corner and saw Ratchet and he jumped in my face and gave me all kinds of kisses, he didn't forget me."

The two had survived a war zone, but Beberg says Ratchet helped rescue her as much as she did him. "I had a lot of anxiety over there and he helped me through several panic attacks," says Beberg. "We went through hell and high water together."

As for her last three months awaiting her orders to go home, Beberg says they were very bad. She was newly demoted with a new job, placed in a unit where she knew no one and her fellow soldiers in her old unit were told not to have contact with her. "I wasn't treated badly, but I wasn't treated well either," Beberg says. "I was very lonely after Ratchet left."

What's in store for Beberg and Ratchet? Beberg is now in massage therapy school and Ratchet has adjusted to American life just fine.

Also, one of the guys who helped Ratchet make it out of Iraq has become quite close to Beberg. They are planning to be married, adopting another homeless dog and moving to a farm sometime next year. 

 To see more images from this article, connect to [www.FIDOfriendly.com/features/love-in-a-war-zone](http://www.FIDOfriendly.com/features/love-in-a-war-zone)

# HILARY & IAMS ARE HOME 4 THE HOLIDAYS

Academy Award-winner **Hilary Swank** lends a helping paw for **Iams Home 4 the Holidays** pet adoption campaign.

Photographs by **Iams/Brian Bowen Smith**

**"It's so rewarding to look into an adopted animal's eyes and see how thankful they are that you saved their life... I am a true believer in pet adoption and have rescued many animals throughout my life. I hope everyone will join our mission this holiday season so more pets can experience the gift of love and family."**

Editorial taken from the December 2009 issue.





# SWANK

Ambassador Hilary Swank with her two dogs, Karoo and Rumi, during a photo op with Nora, who was adopted from the Helen Woodward Animal Center in September.





**T**wo-time Academy Award-winning actress Hilary Swank will serve as the 2009 ambassador for the 11th annual, Iams Home 4 the Holidays pet adoption drive that kicked off October 1. Swank will share her personal experience with pet adoption and encourage families to find their new best friends this holiday season by visiting animal shelters and pet rescue groups. Along with founding partner Helen Woodward Animal Center and nearly 3,500 participating animal organizations worldwide, the program has set a goal to find loving families for 1.5 million pets between October 1, 2009 and January 4, 2010.

"I'm so proud to be working with Iams Home 4 the Holidays to help raise awareness about the importance of pet adoption," said Hilary Swank. "Last year, the program's adoption goal was to get 1 million pets adopted in just three months, but this year the goal is even bigger—we're on a mission to find loving families for 1.5 million orphaned pets between October 1st and January 4th."

Swank has adopted many pets throughout her life, including her two dogs Karoo and Rumi. She rescued Karoo from the side of a road while filming in South Africa a few years ago and adopted Rumi last fall from a participating IH4TH shelter in Los Angeles.

"Now more than ever orphaned animals need our help and who bet-

**"I have adopted and rescued animals all my life," said Hilary Swank, pet parent and 2009 Iams Home 4 the Holidays Ambassador. "Over the years I've adopted three dogs, three cats and a bird. And every day when I look at my two rescued dogs, Karoo and Rumi, I know they're thankful that I've adopted them into my family, and I'm just as thankful they've adopted me."**



Hilary Swank tours the medical facilities at the no-kill Helen Woodward Animal Center.








Helen Woodward Animal Center  
President Michael Arms and Hilary Swank  
greet two dogs at the center.

ter to give them a voice than Hilary?" said Mike Arms, founder of Iams Home 4 the Holidays and President of Helen Woodward Animal Center. "Along with Hilary and her inspiration, our 3,500 animal organizations are working to shine a big spotlight on the need to help the nearly eight million homeless pets in our country, and are committed to helping raise awareness about the importance of pet adoption."

"Hilary's genuine passion and love for animals combined with her pet adoption experience makes her a tremendous ambassador for Iams Home 4 the Holidays," said Dan Rajczak, senior vice president, Global Snacks and Pet Care in North America. "We're confident that with the support of an advocate like Hilary, we'll be able to achieve or even exceed our pet adoption goal again this year and help 1.5 million pets find loving homes."

Iams Home 4 the Holidays is dedicated to helping orphaned pets. The program has placed more than 3 million animals in homes since 1999, and in 2008, the adoption drive found families for 1,202,751 pets. The 2009 program officially kicked-off on October 1, but in the meantime, there are still millions of homeless animals that need help. To learn more about how to make a difference in the life of an orphaned pet, including finding participating shelters, volunteering and making a donation to support animal organizations and pets awaiting new homes, visit [www.iamshome4theholidays.com](http://www.iamshome4theholidays.com). 

**"I'm so proud to be working with Iams Home 4 the Holidays to help raise awareness about the importance of pet adoption," said Hilary Swank, pet parent and 2009 Iams Home 4 the Holidays Ambassador. "Last year, the program's adoption goal was to get one million pets adopted in just three months, but this year the goal is even bigger—we're on a mission to find loving homes for 1.5 million orphaned pets between October 1 and January 4."**



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