

# A Celebrity Dog Day Afternoon

## The Rich and Famous Mingle with Kittens and Canines at Bideawee's StarPet 2008 Contest

New York, NY -11/11/2008- Bideawee, one of the nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit animal humane organization, hosted its annual StarPet 2008 contest where six very talented dog and cat finalists from across the country arrived to go nose-to-snout in a fierce pet competition, where the two lucky winner receives representation from celebrity pet trainer and pet talent agent Bash Dibra.

Entertainment abounded with performances from Broadway's *Gypsy* prodigy, **Sami Gayle**, and comedian **Erik Rivera**, between talent exhibitions from each StarPet finalist.

Though many tried, only one cat and one dog emerged victorious as the official winners of StarPet 2008. **Milo**, the 'Movie Star' and cool cat from NYC proved to be quite the socialite as he ventured into the audience for applause. **Splash**, the 'Jackson Pollack' of puppies from San Diego, CA, wooed the audience and judges. Both pets accepted the honor with the aplomb and grace of true stars.

Among the well-heeled attendees were **host Montel Williams**, who arrived early with wife, Tara Fowler. Shortly after, stunning supermodel **Paulina Porizkova** from *America's Next Top Model* showed up with her pooch and a gal pal. **Jill Rappaport** from the *Today Show* made a newsworthy appearance during which **Mike Jerrick** from the *Morning Show with Mike and Juliet* limited himself to only a few, slightly inappropriate comments to Paulina. **Michael Musto** from the *Village Voice* delivered his trademark presence to the festivities while Grammy Award Winner **Roberta Flack** entertained ticket holders with her witty comments as part of the celebrity judging panel.

Other special celebrity guests included **Dr. Ruth Westheimer**, **Constantine Maroulis** from *American Idol*, Soap Opera star **Linda Dano**, *Gossip Girl's* **Michelle Hurd**, *The Bachelorette's* **Graham Bunn**, **Dr. David Best**, and child actor **Josh Flitter**. **Elvis**, **Laurie** and **Andrew** from the *Greatest American Dog* TV show were in attendance, and actress **Eileen Fulton** from *As the World Turns* acted as Honorary Chair.

After the winner was announced and the food was served, attendees participated in a silent auction to benefit **Bideawee**, a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 humane organization and **NY S.A.V.E.** a philanthropic organization that provides funding for the emergency veterinary care of companion animals when their owners are unable to pay the costs of such treatment.

100% of Bideawee's funding comes from private sources. For more information, please visit [www.bideawee.org](http://www.bideawee.org).

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