

Pacifica Tribune



Photo by Carol Camacho

Some of the surfers find their seats at Friday's VIP table, l to r: Rothstein, Tristan, Rusty and Cherie.

Surf dogs walk red carpet fundraiser

By Jean Bartlett
Tribune Writer

Twenty-three surf dogs, champions all, had their names on the roster of this past Saturday's Fourth Annual World Dog Surfing Championships at Pacifica's Linda Mar Beach. Along with the surfing competition, the top dog event also included: a surf dog village, beach Frisbee catching, beach dog fashion and costume contest, and a pet wellness fair. The hugely popular event is also a media favorite generating pure fun headlines in a variety of press rooms including: NBC's Today Show, NPR, the San Francisco Chronicle and The Late Show with Stephen Colbert on CBS.

Friday, late afternoon and early evening, some of the canine celebrities of Saturday's big event walked the red carpet at the Celebrity Surf Dog Meet n Greet. The event, co-hosted by The Lommori Stahl Group of Re/Max Star Properties and Beth Lemke's A Grape in the Fog, was a pre-eve fundraiser in support of the Rockaway Ricky Memorial Fund. It took place at AGITF, a wine bar located in Pacifica's Rockaway Beach neighborhood, and it featured "Yappy Hour" drink specials, for those 21 and over, and trays full of all-age pleasing "yappetizers" such as: pawtato chips, pupcakes, popcorn and pupsicles.

Rockaway Ricky was the official mascot of the Lommori/Stahl Really Group. A Schnoodle – a Schnauzer and Poodle mix – Rocky had his own blog spot and spent many of his days in the company of his mom, Christine Stahl, wagging his greeting to customers. Following his death in August of 2018, the Rockaway Ricky Memorial Fund was established to help

Pacifica seniors and homeless with their pet care needs. In support of this Fund, a number of local business owners had their pooches pose for the 2019 "Dog Days of Pacifica" calendar – a calendar again in the works for the coming year.

"We kicked off the 2019 'Dog Days of Pacifica' calendar with a release party at AGITF in 2018," Stahl said. "The purpose was to bring awareness about the Memorial Fund and the overwhelming need in our community for help with pet food, pet supplies and veterinarian expenses."

Cherie the Surf Dog, a French Bulldog, was among the eight next-day surfers who posed for selfies in this local fundraiser. Also in that star-studded lineup were: Rothstein the Surfing Bulldog; Charlie Surfs Up!, a Yellow Lab; Skyler the Surfing Dog, a Queensland Heeler; Faith the Surfing Pit Bull; Tristan, a West Highland Terrier; Rusty the Min Pin, a Miniature Pinscher; and Surf Dog Teddy, a Goldendoodle. The red carpet walk and subsequent meet n greet took place on the dog-friendly patio of the wine bar. The eight dogs additionally: provided autographed paw prints, waited patiently while their guardians answered questions, and gave the event's "Ruff, Ruff Raffle" a definite paws up.



Photo by John Garcia

Saturday contestant, Rothstein the Surfing Bulldog, takes his glide to the ride on one of his many chill-wave adventures.

Who were these luminaries? Cherie, 7, is from Newport Beach, CA. She's been surfing for seven years. Rothstein, 2, was born on the 4th of July and hails from San Diego. He's been surfing for a year. Charlie, 4, is from San Diego, CA. He's in his third year of surfing and is known for pulling his own surfboard into the water.

Skyler, 8, is from Santa Cruz, CA. A therapy dog, she's been surfing since she was a puppy. Her tag line is "the Sky's the limit." Faith, 7, is from San Diego. She has been surfing for six years and must be on the water at least once a month. Tristan, 7, is from Carlsbad, CA. He surfs most every weekend and was quite simply "born to surf." Rusty, 3, is from Huntington Beach, CA. Found on the streets, he's been surfing since he was 4 months old. Teddy, 5, is from San Diego. A therapy dog, Teddy has surfed for five years.

Also in attendance, and most agreeably assigned to mingling, was surf dog Beezel. Five years on the board, he recently retired for health reasons. The 7-year-old Airedale Terrier mix is from Huntington Beach and is the cousin of Rusty the Min Pin. The happy-go-lucky rescue can be seen riding the waves in a Dog Sports News clip of the 2016 Dog Surfing Championships. "Beezel, our first surf dog, rides in with flare and cool big dog style – tail to the sky." Almost all of the dogs have surfed Pacifica.

The Rockaway Rick Memorial Fund (RRMF) is a program of Pacificans Care, a 501(c) 3 organization, www.pacificans-care.com. All RRMF donations can be made to Pacificans Care under the RRMF donation tab. Pacificans Care subsequently disburses donations to assist with the pet care needs of: Pacifica seniors through the Pacifica Senior Center's Healthy Pets/Healthy Seniors Program, and for Pacifica homeless through the Pacifica Resource Center. To date approximately \$3,000 has been raised in support.



Pacifica legend Rockaway Ricky. Photo by Jean Bartlett, 2015.

For those couldn't attend the Friday Meet n Greet or the Saturday Championships, be sure to visit: <http://www.surfdogchampionships.com/>. It's loaded with good dog stories, including a page on local sponsors. Photos of the "Red Carpet" stars can be found on the The Lommori Stahl Group Facebook page.

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