

Celebrating Animals



YOUR BEST SHOT

Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet or wild animal? Send it to us for possible publication in *All Animals*, along with an explanation of 150 words or fewer about why it's meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 5-by-7" and at least 2 MB.

To upload your photo and information, visit humanesociety.org/yourbestshot. Send hard copy submissions to All Animals—Your Best Shot, The HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. (Hard copies cannot be returned.)

"He has changed my life," says Kim Dudek of the 4-year-old pit bull terrier found wandering the alley behind her New Orleans business in 2004. His amputated ears and menacing attitude indicated a former life as a fighter. One of Dudek's employees took in the pathetic bruiser, who received love and attention for perhaps the first time.

Two years later, Dagnabit underwent surgery to repair ruptured spinal disks. The months-long recuperation left him underweight, depressed, and unable to walk. Dudek took charge of his recovery and became his official owner. With the help of canine massage, acupuncture, chiropractic and homeopathic treatments, and a specially designed wheelchair, Dag was soon rolling around

the French Quarter, and he even began to swim. Dag emerged from the experience a changed dog—the tough guy replaced by a sweet-natured teddy bear who solicits kisses and plays well with other pooches.

Inspired by her pet's determination, Dudek became a certified canine rehabilitation practitioner and opened Dag's House, a rehab facility for disabled dogs. Dag's good looks and amazing spirit also inspired the judges of our 2010 Spay Day Online Pet Photo Contest: They awarded his photo top honors.

Now out of the wheelchair, Dag is learning to walk again and can even climb stairs. "He's like the poster child for disabled dogs," Dudek says. "He's beat all the odds."