

# LINT ROLLER PARTY!

## Glitz, Glamour, Pet Hair!

OK, so who's prettier, *Debra Messing* or her adorable fluffy white dog *Laila*? And who got more attention, *Charlize Theron* or her cocker spaniel, *Denver*? Such questions make sense only at a Best Friends Hollywood benefit and the "Lint Roller Party" lived up to its *Los Angeles Magazine* billing as "one of the 10 coolest things to do in November!"

The event, a benefit for Best Friends programs in Los Angeles drew a glittering array of animal loving celebrities and a few of their dogs, as well. Charlize did bring along *Denver* and I tell you, those photographer guys just couldn't get enough of that cocker spaniel! *Debra Messing* and *Laila* turned heads, while those who didn't bring their own source of pet hair made due by cuddling and kissing the adorable adoptables brought to the party by *Pacific Coast Dog Rescue*.

Along with presenters *Hilary Swank* and *Debra Messing*, *Robert Culp* hosted the awards ceremony. The Mini and Piffi Award sponsored by *Wolfgang* and *Maria Petersen* (named for two stray cats they rescued), went to *Charlotte Marquardt* for her care of feral cats. And the Grass Roots Grant, sponsored by *Pets.com*, went to *Dave Roe* of *Pacific Coast Dog Rescue*.

*Pets.com*, whose support of Best Friends has allowed us to place hundreds of shelter animals in new homes, sponsored the evening. 🐾



DARE TO WEAR BLACK

Clockwise from top left: *Maria* (left) and *Wolfgang Petersen* with *Charlotte Marquardt*; *Laura Dern* with one of the adoptable shelter dogs; *Charlize Theron* with *Denver*; *David Chokhachy* and a friend; *Frances Fisher* and one of the shelter dogs; *Tippi Hedren*; *Robert* and *Candace Culp*; *Linda Blair* with one of the shelter dogs; *Debra Messing* and *Laila*; and (center) *Hilary Swank*.



Photo: Russ Einhorn/UPI



Photo: Jana De Peyer



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Photo: Jana De Peyer



Photo: Russ Einhorn/UPI



Photo: Ralph Merlino



Photo: Russ Einhorn/UPI



Photo: Jana De Peyer



Photo: Jana De Peyer





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# The Lint Roller Party

## Stars raise funds for homeless pets

What does **Charlize Theron**'s dog Denver think of her Oscar?

"He couldn't care less!" laughs the actress, one of 800 guests at Hollywood's annual **Lint Roller Party**, a fundraiser for No More Homeless Pets Los Angeles.

**Peter Falk** leans into the camera as he comes down the red-carpet line. "We have *ten* dogs at home," he growls, "and we're not getting any more." (His wife, Shera, offers a knowing wink and grin!)

"They run your house, your life, and they have no respect for your privacy," sighs **James Cromwell**, referring to his wheaten terrier. "They are the undisputed leaders of the household."

And **Jeff Probst**, host of *Survivor*, talks about maybe adopting a dog to take on the series' expeditions. "Out there, I wouldn't even need to poop scoop!"

**Elizabeth Shue**, **Amy Smart**, and **Frances Conroy** presented awards and grants to local groups, including one to veterinarian **Dr. Cesar Tapia**, who works for homeless animals in Mexico.

And Jake from the Evercare Company kept the red carpet clean all evening! 🐾



Jake lint-rollers the red carpet



Charlize Theron and Denver



Tori Spelling



James Avery and Rufus Rastus Johnson Brown



Shera Danese Falk and Peter Falk



Lisa Edelstein and Wolfie



David Chokachi at the Wheel of Fortune



Amy Smart at the silent auction



# The Lint Roller Party



Photos: Best Friends/Clay Myers

The historic Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel was restored to its former glory for the **Best Friends Lint Roller Party** on May 6th. Jessica Alba, Eric Idle, Courtney Peldon, Frances Conroy, and James Cromwell were just a few of Hollywood's brightest animal-loving stars who joined in the fun. The evening, sponsored by Evercare, the lint roller folks, raised money to benefit Los Angeles area animals.





# Glitz, Glamour, Pet Hair!

The animal party of the year

**I**t was an evening of glitz and glamour at SMASHBOX studios – complete with champagne, glittery black dresses, red-carpet celebs (from actor Amy Smart to Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis), handsome, adoptable dogs from local rescue groups, and coveted auction items.

Hollywood's annual Lint Roller Party raises funds for Best Friends programs in Los Angeles. And the biggest of those programs is coming up in 2007, when Best Friends looks to team with the City of Los Angeles to inaugurate a new and comprehensive approach to the goal of No More Homeless Pets.

Todd Newton, star of "The Price Is Right – Live," flew in from Las Vegas to host the awards ceremony, doling out grants to grassroots groups, and the live auction, which featured items such as a trip to the Cognac region of France with a deluxe side trip to Paris (donated by Landy Cognac), a set of "In the Pits" credentialed passes to the Indy 500 (donated by the Indianapolis Speedway) and a signed Fender bass guitar from Sting.

Another star of the evening was Joanne Domitrovic, a Best Friends member who had adopted three special-needs cats from the sanctuary. If anyone deserved a night of red carpet treatment, it was Joanne, who got tickets to the party for her birthday. Joanne came all the way from New York to be wined and dined like the celebrity that she is – in the eyes of those very special cats.

Our thanks to event sponsors SMASHBOX studios, Evercare Company and Halo, Purely for Pets. 🐾



Photo: Denise Borcher

*Above:* Amy Smart and her adopted dog Oscar.

*Right:* The Spot Stew Award recipient Kari Whitman (right), founder of Ace of Hearts Rescue, is congratulated by Kirkwood Smith of *That 70s Show* and Andi Brown, founder of Halo, Purely for Pets.

*Bottom left:* SMASHBOX studios was the venue of this year's party.

*Bottom right:* Party guest with the SMASHBOX office mascot.



Photo: Amy Grave



Photo: Amy Grave



Photo: Denise Borcher





Emmylou Harris

# Glitz, Glamour, Pet Hair!

The red carpet was rolled out in style with lights, cameras and stars on November 13 at the 15th annual Lint Roller Party to benefit Best Friends' work in Los Angeles. It was a night to remember at the newly renovated Hollywood Palladium, which has hosted the biggest names in show business. But this night was all about homeless animals in the Los Angeles area. Sharing the red carpet, many accompanied by rescued dogs, were celebrities such as René Russo; *Phantom of the Opera*'s Emmy Rossum; *The O.C.*'s Autumn Reeser; *How I Met Your Mother* star Alyson Hannigan and her husband, actor Alexis Denisof; and *Cold Case* star Thom Barry. Also on hand were comic actor Arte Johnson of *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In*, TV star Robert Culp, Oscar winner Linda Hunt and Loretta Swit of *MASH*.

Longtime Best Friends supporter Lisa Edelstein, from the hit drama *House*, hosted the party and Oscar winner Cloris Leachman, fresh off her stint on *Dancing with the Stars*, helped conduct a live auction that included unique experiences and sponsorships for life-saving local Best Friends programs.

Other special guests included Angie Griffin and Chad Nikolaus of Wisconsin, who received a trip to the Lint Roller Party as winners of "A Puppy-Store-Free USA" video contest, and Best Friends' own celebs, the stars of National Geographic Channel's *DogTown*.

In the show-stopping tradition of the Palladium, the evening featured music by Kiki Ebsen, Amy Keys singing with musicians from Joe Cocker's band and Country Music Hall of Famer Emmylou Harris, who headlined the entertainment.

Enjoying the music and the night was

Randy Grim, founder of Stray Rescue of St. Louis and a longtime Best Friends partner. Actor Eric Roberts presented him with the Chrissie Award, sponsored by Dwight and Kimberly Lowell.

Receiving the Mini and Piffi Award, presented by Alyson Hannigan, was Nancy Smith, who was described as "a local hero" for her extraordinary work on behalf of sick and homeless cats in some of Los Angeles' toughest neighborhoods. The award was sponsored by Wolfgang and Maria Petersen.

Jillian Barberie-Reynolds presented the Grass Roots Grant, sponsored by the Plodzien Family Foundation, to Molly's Mutts and Meows for their work in making Los Angeles a No More Homeless Pets community. "We will put this money to good use to save dogs and cats in shelters," said Molly Wooten as

she accepted the cash award.

Paul Berry, Best Friends' chief executive officer, said, "It's people like Randy, Molly and Nancy who do so much of the heavy lifting of saving animals at a grassroots level. This evening is all about acknowledging inspiring leaders. It's leaders like them who keep us going. We couldn't do it without them."

The awards presentation was Paul's second-favorite part of the evening. His first? Emmylou Harris' performance. And it looks like Emmylou will get a chance to check out Paul's performance – as one of the leaders of Best Friends. "This is as close as I've gotten to the [Best Friends] sanctuary," she said from the stage. "It's going to be my next vacation. I'm going to scoop out cat boxes."

To learn more about Best Friends' Los Angeles programs, visit [network.bestfriends.org/laprograms](http://network.bestfriends.org/laprograms). 🐾



Lisa Edelstein



Alyson Hannigan



Eric Roberts



René Russo



**First Home Forever Home**

## Volunteers get the party started

By Ted Brewer

Every year for the last 16, Best Friends has hosted the Lint Roller Party to benefit our Los Angeles Programs. It's perhaps our most high-profile event, usually held at one illustrious venue or another in the city and drawing a cast of celebrities and generous benefactors who sustain and enhance Best Friends' work in the Los Angeles area. They give knowing that the area serves as a seedbed and springboard for developing and spreading nationwide our lifesaving programs and campaigns that boost adoptions, end the sale of dogs bred in puppy mills, keep feral cats out of shelters, and otherwise contribute to our mission of No More Homeless Pets.

Held October 3, 2009, at the Hollywood Palladium, this year's Lint Roller Party attracted 600 attendees. But more impressively, it also drew 116 volunteers, who helped with selling advertising and tickets, obtaining the silent auction items, manning the silent auction, greeting guests, loading

and unloading supplies, setting up stage lighting and sound, handing out gift bags, serving as hosts, and taking photographs.

"The Lint Roller Party and virtually everything Best Friends' L.A. Programs does could not exist without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers," says Robin Harmon, Los Angeles Programs adoptions manager and Lint Roller volunteer coordinator. "L.A. Programs has a small staff, and we depend on our volunteers to assist with every aspect of the Lint Roller Party."

One of the people who volunteered at this year's Lint Roller, and at countless other Best Friends events in the last 18 years, was Tom Symczak, no doubt the longest-serving Best Friends volunteer in the Los Angeles area.

Back in 1991, Symczak was working as a front desk clerk at a Los Angeles Holiday Inn when Best Friends co-founders Silva and Francis Battista checked in. The couple was in town raising money for the

launch of Los Angeles Programs and for the sanctuary back in Utah.

Symczak asked about the mission behind Best Friends. Having always had, as he says, "a soft spot for animals," Symczak was moved. "I felt a connection between what Best Friends stood for and what I intuitively believed," Symczak says.

Symczak, who now works as a manager at a film and television post-production facility, has been a loyal Best Friends volunteer ever since. Symczak was one of several volunteers who set up the lighting and sound for the 2009 Lint Roller stage presentations and the live performance by the Bangles.

Another longstanding Best Friends volunteer who helped out at the Lint Roller was Penny Altman. She coordinated the group of eight psychics (all volunteers) who gave readings at the event. Altman has been volunteering for Best Friends for 15 years, and it was her sixth year serving at





*Glitz, glamour, pet hair: on the red carpet with two- and four-legged guests.*

the Lint Roller. When asked why she has been so devoted to the organization, Altman said simply, "I love Best Friends, and I love the sanctuary."

Several other longstanding Los Angeles volunteers concur with Altman, citing their love of the sanctuary as the motivation behind their dedication to Best Friends. "There's no place like it around," says volunteer January Welsh. "It's like heaven for the animals." She and her twin sister, Marissa, both professional actors, served as hosts at the Lint Roller Party and volunteer frequently for Best Friends' Puppies Aren't Products campaign and Pup My Ride, a program to get dogs out of shelters and puppy mills and into areas where they are most likely to find their forever homes.

"Most of the volunteers love the sanctuary and have been there, but their lives and work are in L.A.," Harmon says. "However, they still want to contribute to Best Friends' mission of No More Homeless Pets."



*The Bangles keep the crowd moving during their hit-heavy set.*



*Leslie Sarna, Carson the Chihuahua and Autumn Reeser enjoy the party.*