



- 31 Pet Health  
Expert behavior training tips
- 32 Kids' Health  
A summer road trip survival guide
- 35 Baby Talk  
Is it an ear infection? Learn how to tell and what to do

PET HEALTH

# To the Rescue

Dancing With the Stars judge Carrie Ann Inaba gives animals a leg up through her organization

By Melanie D.G. Kaplan



EXPERT TIP

"Consider all possible negatives and positives before choosing a pet. Do you have allergies? A cat or dog that sheds a lot might not be the best choice."—William Draper, DVM

“There’s so much magic in the world. And I’m more open to it now because of my animals.”

PET HEALTH

# Safe Haven

● Your organization, Carrie Ann Inaba Animal Project, collaborates with animal rescue groups to help abused and neglected animals. What has this taught you about human behavior? I’ve found that I’m truly an animal lover, and that’s the community I relate to. These are people who will spend their last \$25 on gas to transport an animal. Animals provide unconditional love. I want to share that with more people—people who lack contact with other humans, like seniors who are alone.

Do you think rescue pets need more TLC than other animals? I know one thing—they know you saved them. If their life is in danger, they know it, and they show that appreciation in beautiful ways. You don’t know their past, so you have to be a lot more tuned in to your animal. That’s the gift you get—putting your energy toward another creature. That’s what love is.

You have a Chihuahua and four cats. Some of your pets have had medical issues. How do you deal? My boxer, Cookie, recently passed away. She had a heart condition and had been in a cage for so long when I adopted her. My cat Taz has had three surgeries and has only one kidney. He has a feeding tube, and he is one of the happiest, healthiest cats I have ever seen. Loving all my special-needs animals is so rewarding.

What’s it like when you get home? I walk through the door, get attacked by [Chihuahua] Peanut, and play with her on her big bed. I give Taz water through a syringe. Squeaker gets dinner. Taz gets dinner. Peanut gets three choices for dinner, because I never know what she’ll want to eat. I wash more animal dishes than human dishes.

Dancing With the Stars airs on ABC.

Read the full Q&A with Inaba in our free iPad app.

Reviewed by William Draper, DVM  
WebMD Pet Health Expert