

New & Noteworthy

August Newsletter

The Dogs Are Talking Monthly Dispatch

August, 2007

This month's ad features two of our favorite casting call dogs: Rocket the Great Dane and Donut the English bulldog (participant numbers 36 and 46, respectively). Readers may remember Donut from our casting call, where she distinguished herself by doing a face-plant in the mud and then posing for the camera with great satisfaction. She also marched with us at Pride and attended our press conference and campaign launch in July.

If you like this month's poster or you know the perfect spot for it, please don't hesitate to download it from our website. All our posters are available to be downloaded at any time, and we want you to hang them up all over town—don't let any wall space go to waste! Help us remind gay and bisexual men to **get tested for syphilis**.

Campaign Launch

The Dogs Are Talking Campaign was officially launched on July 18 with a press conference in front of City Hall. Speakers were Jacque McCright, Community-Based STD Services Manager; Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, Director of STD Prevention; Mikael Wagner, Founder and Managing Director of Promotions West; John Lipp, Executive Director of PAWs, and Steve Gipson, Director of the Magnet Project.

To review our media coverage, check out The Bay Area Reporter, Fog City Journal, Topix, GayNewsWatch, and BlackNews.com.

Interested in being a community partner or one of the Dogs Are Talking sponsors? Give Promotions West a call at 415.255.0800 or send an email to info@dogsaretalking.com. We'd love to hear from you today.

STDtest.org: When You Don't Have Time To Wait

Do you shop online? Bank online? Cruise online? Then get tested online!

Get tested for syphilis. Many guys have the disease and pass it on without knowing it. Symptoms can come and go, and they resemble lots of other things—sores, rash, fever, etc. Having syphilis when you're HIV+ can increase your risk of transmitting the virus to your sex partners by 3-5 times. Visit www.STDtest.org. Type in your info (confidentially, of course), print out a lap slip with a unique ID number, and take it to one of six LabCorp locations in the city to have your blood drawn. There is no wait—it takes under five minutes once you arrive at the lab. Get your results online via your ID number in three to seven days.

How easy is that?

Community-Based Screening (CBS)

The CBS team provides free & confidential STD testing in community settings where gay men

often socialize. We offer throat & rectal tests for chlamydia and gonorrhea, a finger-stick test for syphilis, and HIV tests when time and space are appropriate. When the results arrive we sort out the positive ones and call those patients back for treatment. We provide free medication to those who test positive as well as their recent sexual partners. The best thing about this program is our ability to take STD testing out to the men rather than waiting for them to come to the clinic. But our real rewards are our patients' gratitude and our knowledge of the awareness this program brings into their lives.

Please contact Israel at (415) 355-2009 for details on our next event.

What's the Scoop with inSPOT.org?

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH)'s STD Prevention and Control Services is once again first in the U.S. to offer one of the most innovative online STD services available: inSPOT.org, a peer-to-peer service. inSPOT was developed by SFDPH in partnership with Internet Sexuality Information Services, Inc. (ISIS). Now all patients diagnosed with STDs are offered inSPOT e-cards. Patients can go online and send anonymous e-cards to sex partner(s), notifying them of possible exposure to particular STDs. Recipients of the cards may opt to print out prescriptions. That is, they can be treated for infection presumptively—before symptoms occur.

inSPOT was designed to make it easier for patients to notify their sex partners about exposure. It is not intended to discourage verbal communication nor to reduce one's responsibility to discuss STD status with sex partners.

www.inspot.org

Save Your Ass

It's BACK for 2007. Considered by many to be one of SFDPH's best brochures, "Save Your Ass" addresses the sexual health needs of gay & bisexual men. This men's health resource guide is newly illustrated for 2007 with the artwork of local photographer Duane Cramer. FREE copies are available at City Clinic, Magnet and the Stop AIDS Project. You may also contact Israel at (415) 355-2009 to have a copy mailed to you.

If you are an agency or medical provider, we are happy to send you a large number of brochures for your program or office. Just call Israel at (415) 355-2009 during regular business hours.

Contact us at info@dogsaretalking.com

STDtest.org | sfcityclinic.org | 415.487.5580

