

New & Noteworthy

December Newsletter **The Dogs Are Talking Monthly Dispatch** **December, 2007**

It's not a pleasant topic at this festive time of year, but it has to be addressed: sores. Syphilis can produce painless sores called chancres (pronounced "shank-ers")—and swollen glands near these sores—within 10–90 days of infection. These sores go away on their own without treatment, leaving the infected person symptom-free, but that does not mean the illness is gone. In fact, syphilis sores manifest themselves during the very first stage of the disease. Left untreated, the illness simply progresses.

In this month's ad, Roxy and Monty (casting call participant numbers 60 and 33) remind us not to ignore those chancres: if you find one, you should get down to the San Francisco City Clinic at 356 7th Street right away. And readers should remember: all gay and bisexual men with multiple sex partners should get tested for syphilis every 3–6 months.

Our December newsletter wouldn't be complete without letting you know the pedigree of our stars: Roxy is a Beagle/Springer Spaniel mix, and Monty is a Collie/Australian Shepherd mix.

And finally, may we say, as 2007 disappears from sight, good sexual health to all, and to all a good night! Happy holidays and happy new year from the Dogs Are Talking campaign.

Dogs Are Talking with DeLano IGA Market

Dogs Are Talking campaign has formed a new partnership with DeLano IGA Market, located in the Castro district at 4201 18th Street. As San Francisco becomes greener, DeLano IGA and the Dogs Are Talking campaign are teaming up to provide canvas shopping bags for their consumers. Customers will get the bags free of charge to carry their groceries.

"We are proud to be a part of the community. We believe that the community defines us, not us the other way around," says Desiree DeLano, Vice-President of Community Relations at DeLano Retail Partners. The market will also display information about the Dogs Are Talking campaign, urging gay and bisexual men to stay healthy.

Other community partners include illumobile, PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), Magnet, Blow Buddies, and Jeffrey's Natural Pet Foods.

World AIDS Day

STD Prevention and Control Services' "Dogs Are Talking" crew braved the cold weather to show up for this year's World AIDS Day Wellness Fair on Saturday, December 1, 2008. They were invited by event coordinator Doug Sebesta to provide attendees with sexual health and substance abuse information, and to offer screening for gonorrhea, chlamydia

and syphilis. The team was able to screen 19 people, and to link folks with HIV counseling and testing through Magnet, as well as other health services.

Help Spread the Word

Remember, 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.

Getting Involved

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.

Newsletter Archive: August, September, October, November

Contact us at info@dogsaretalking.com

[STDtest.org](http://stdtest.org) | sfcityclinic.org | 415.487.5580

