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# New & Noteworthy

## October Newsletter The Dogs Are Talking Monthly Dispatch October, 2007

It's probably too early to tell just how drastically the internet has changed our lives. Not just a high-tech information receptacle—an encyclopedia on a screen—but a tool for connecting people socially, politically and professionally over distances of any size (from the next cubicle to the opposite hemisphere), it allows us to engage with each other in ways we couldn't have imagined before. Or rather, it allows us to engage with each other in the ways we've been imagining for centuries, only more efficiently than ever before. People organize political demonstrations, carry on revolutions, work, pay their bills, meet their spouses, and of course, have sex online. Sometimes they still have sex in person after meeting online. As a result, one of the internet's many functions (albeit an unintended one) is to facilitate the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Internet use (as well as the widespread availability of antiviral medication) has been linked with San Francisco's current syphilis spike, and forty percent of the men diagnosed with syphilis meet their partners online.

Our October ad is meant to remind people that online hookups do have associated health risks, and it's important for those who meet their sexual partners this way to get tested for syphilis regularly. The stars of this month's ad are Louie, a German Shepherd/Bull Mastiff mix, and Maya, an English Cocker Spaniel (casting call participant numbers 63 and 6).

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.

### Dogs Were Talking at the Folsom Street Fair

It was great to see so many people come out for the Folsom Street Fair on September 30—our tent was the one with the inflatable dogs on top.

These gentlemen got into the canine spirit of the event:

Now my Butt-Shiffing Mutts video won't open. These computer viruses can really put you out of commission.

Computers nothing! My guy got syphilis from one of his internet hookups — he picks up more bugs online than I do on a trip to Muir Woods.

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**40% OF MEN DIAGNOSED WITH SYPHILIS MEET THEIR SEX PARTNERS OVER THE INTERNET**

Syphilis is spread by "skin-to-skin" contact, through anal, vaginal and oral sex. Many people don't notice the symptoms or know they have syphilis. The initial sore is painless. The good news is syphilis is easily cured.

**Get Tested for Syphilis**  
www.DogsAreTalking.com

POWERED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH • STD PREVENTION & TREATMENT SERVICES  
Contact: 415.487.6680 • www.sfdph.org



The San Francisco Department of Public Health's STD Prevention and Control Services staff screened 99 fair attendees for syphilis, gonorrhea or chlamydia, many for all three diseases. Another 49 people were screened for one or more of these STDs at the Castro Street Fair the following weekend.

### 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](mailto:info@dogsaretalking.com). We'd love to hear from you today.

**Newsletter Archive:** August, September

Contact us at [info@dogsaretalking.com](mailto:info@dogsaretalking.com)

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

