



Cover Dog

< Rudy, the Shepherd-mix shelter pup formerly known as Tazzie, was adopted by Lauren Bianco from the Liberty Humane Society in Jersey City, N.J., when he was five months old. Now, two years later, he's strutting his stuff on our cover, and we couldn't be more pleased. Rudy and his fam-

ily call Hoboken home, and he loves city life—especially the dog parks, where he has many friends—and car rides. We couldn't resist Rudy's "every-dogness," his engaging gaze and sturdy, down-home vibe, all of which were wonderfully captured by talented portrait photographer Amanda Jones. Please join us in welcoming Rudy, the all-American

mutt, to our growing pack of 2008 cover dogs.

Remember, we are only announcing one winner at a time, so if you haven't heard from us yet, don't give up hope—you have four more chances to see your dog on the cover this year.

The cover dog contest is officially closed to new entrants.

Amanda Jones

Life Vest

Law enforcement dogs—who are often sent ahead of their human counterparts to check out dangerous situations and apprehend shady suspects—have one of the toughest jobs in the canine world. Unfortunately, many crime prevention agencies and police departments lack the funds necessary to outfit their dogs with life-saving Kevlar vests. Through the help of private dona-

tions, Vest-A-Dog is committed to protecting these K-9 heroes by providing vests to dogs in need. K-9 vests are bullet-proof, stab-proof and help minimize blunt trauma injuries; in the past decade, these types of injuries have caused 60 percent of police dog deaths. Police K-9 handlers throughout the country can register their dogs with Vest-A-Dog to receive fundraising assistance. Visit



their website to learn more about K-9 vests and how you can join the Vest-A-Dog network, make a tax-deductible donation or notify your local police department about this opportunity. vestadog.com

—Amelia Glynn

LIE DOWN

The illustrated floor—artist Dan Golden's cheeky rugs, handmade in NYC from 100 percent New Zealand wool are more than just floor-coverings, they're statements! For every rug purchased, we are told, Dan Golden, Inc., donates a sheep to a woman in a developing country through Oxfam; not only is the sheep a source of income, its wool is used to create local textiles. Dan's partners in this good work are interior designer Ford Lininger and Nutley, a rescued Chihuahua from Brooklyn. dangolden.com



K-9 Lakos, Chicago Police Department (vested by Dr. Julia Weertman through the Illinois Vest-a-Dog program); photo courtesy Lee Harrison, Director, Illinois Vest-a-Dog