



# A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Animal Magazine OF SAN DIEGO

In this issue we what to take time out to pay a special tribute to a little fellow by the name of Bandit who brought smiles to countless faces and his devoted owner, Mark Shaffer. The two have been a fixture at animal and charity events throughout our County and we would like to take this time to say---**Thank You Bandit and Mark!**

If you would like to say thank you too for their years of selfless service to our community please take time out to go to the Bandit Memorial Blood Drive on March 21st and even if you do not want to donate blood you can come out and donate money to a very worthy cause in Bandits honor.

Since this also brings up the subject of pet loss we felt it would be helpful to include an article of what to do when a friend loses a pet. Peggy Haymes has written an wonderful article with very helpful information when trying to comfort a friend that we hope you will enjoy.

This issue also includes another in our Careers with Animals series and this time focuses on a career with fish. We know how much our readers are animal lovers and want to hear about different careers they can get into involving animals so each issue will feature at least one or two of these types of careers that may inspire you to learn more.

Our magazine also focuses on animal welfare organizations here in our County but this time we wanted to include some marvelous work started by a few dedicated people south of our border. I think you will find this article highly enlightening and I hope you take time to visit their web site to read more about the good work they are doing for the animals.

And as always we have listed many wonderful animal events that you, your family and pets can participate in here and we look forward to seeing you at one of them soon!

Sincerely,  
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# A Tribute to Bandit the Biker Dog



By Pamela Begeal

**I**t is probably no secret, that as the Editor of the Animal Magazine I attend quite a few animal events throughout our County and this is where our paths first crossed.

It was a fund raiser during Halloween at the Helen Woodward Animal Center that I encountered a cute little black and white fellow wearing a motorcycle “costume” for Halloween, or so I thought, and his owner wearing a similar outfit.



I saw him again a few months later wearing his little motorcycle outfit and this time it wasn't Halloween and thought maybe this is not just a costume. Then I saw him again at another animal fund raiser and this time he had his own little motorcycle!

I was then hooked, I just had to find out who this enigmatic little fellow named Bandit was and where he came from. And who was that human that was always by his side?



What I found was something I did not expect. I have been going to animal events in San Diego County for over 14 years now and I have seen countless animal and human costumes and have always marveled at folks creativity and enthusiasm for these types of events. However I quickly realized this was no costume, this was a true “Biker Dog” in every sense of the words. He was a fun loving, tennis ball chasing, rebel WITH a cause, Boston Terrier Biker Dog, named Bandit. Along with his human pal Mark Shaffer he was really starting to make a name for himself at local charity events and motorcycle rides throughout California, Arizona and Nevada.

It all started back in 2002 when Bandit's owner, Mark Shaffer took him out on his first motorcycle ride and Mark said, “he looked like he loved it”! Mark is a fitness trainer, realtor, motorcycle enthusiast, fund raiser and all-around “nice guy”. I

**f o u n d**  
 Mark to be a humble and somewhat shy man who let Bandit take the center stage at all the events they attended.

I am at usually at some type of animal event every other weekend in the County. I knew that I had seen them at

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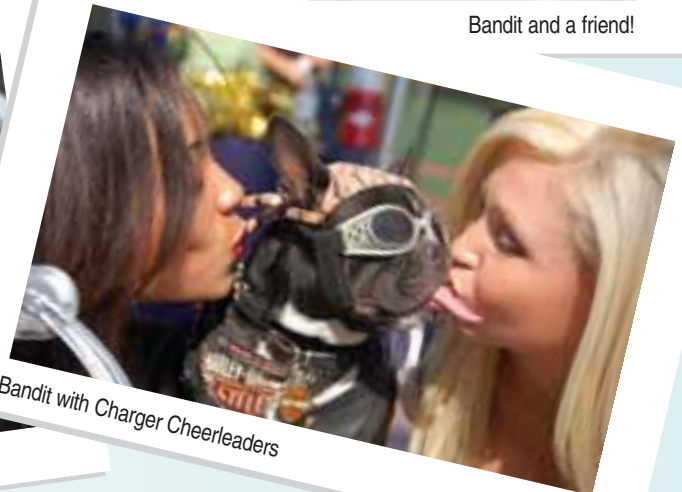
Bandit on his bike



Bandit and a friend!

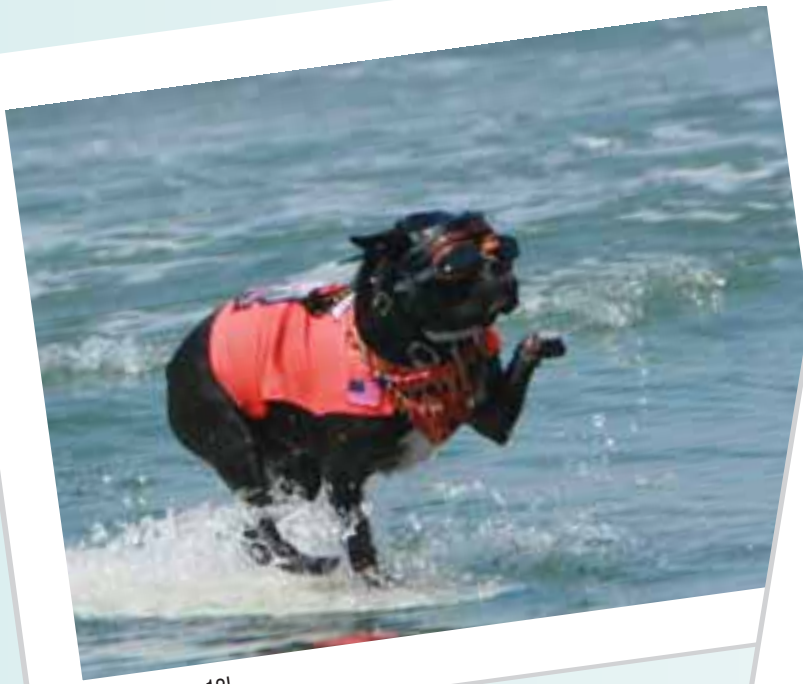


Bandit and Mark Shaffer



Bandit with Charger Cheerleaders





Bandit hangs 18!



Bandit taking time out from his busy schedual to visit children in the hospital

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many of the same animal events I had attended but I had no idea how many more events they actually went to. Not only did Mark and Bandit attend local animal charity events he also found time to attend charity events for fallen Police and Firefighters, the Children's Hospital and Hospice organizations!

To attend functions at the Children's Hospital and Hospice, Bandit entered the therapy dog training program through the Delta Society and was certified as a therapy dog in 2005. How Mark found the time to do all these many charity events I will never know but as I said he is one of the good guys. There is no question that Bandit was far more than a dog to Mark and losing him so suddenly has been very difficult as you would expect. However I think it would mean a great deal to him if you saw him at an event, fund raiser or just riding around town if you would take a minute to go to his web site at [www.BanditTheBikerDog.com](http://www.BanditTheBikerDog.com)

and scroll down to the bottom and write in his guest book. Even if you did not get an opportunity to see them in person take a look at his web site and see all the things he and Bandit have accomplished.

If you would like to say thank you for all that Bandit and Mark have done for our community over the years I hope you will come out to the Memorial Blood Drive on March 21st. Once again Mark wanted to do something for others and along with the San Diego Blood Bank has helped organize this event to honor his friend Bandit and help those in San Diego.

Even if you are too squeamish to give blood please come on out and show your support for Mark and his little buddy Bandit who did so much for all of us. 🐾





Bandit with Roger Hedgecock



Bandit with Al Roker



Bandit with Barry Williams of the brady bunch



Bandit with Charger player 45



Bandit with DMC of Run DMC



Bandit with Mayor Sanders & wife Rana