

## Stars celebrate doggie devotion in new documentary

# For the love of Fido

Richard Belzer (below with pooch Bebe) convinced fellow "Law & Order" star Chris Meloni to participate in the doc "My Dog" with his friend Frida.

BY JENNIFER SENATOR

RICHARD GERE meditates with his dog, Billie and Glenn Close hides liver treats behind pillows for her two pups, Charlie and Jake. These are just a few of the canine-centric confessions revealed in the documentary "My Dog: An Unconditional Love Story," out on DVD Tuesday, and featuring an array of actors, athletes, musicians and writers divulging details about their devoted pups.

The idea for the film came during a script meeting between Gere and director Mark St. Germain, who knows Gere from his work on another dog-focused movie, "Hachiko: A Dog's Story."

When Gere's dog, Billie, entered the room, Gere was a different man, says St. Germain. "He was totally un-

guarded," he says. "Everyone has a relationship with their dog, but for people in public life, it's different. They can really relax around their dogs in a way they can't around people."

So he and producer Daryl Roth searched through their Rolodexes for famous pup-loving pals and set out to make the documentary. They ended up with more than 20 recognizable names and faces, and St. Germain spent a half-day or more with each one, hanging out on penthouse patios or strolling the grounds of country homes.

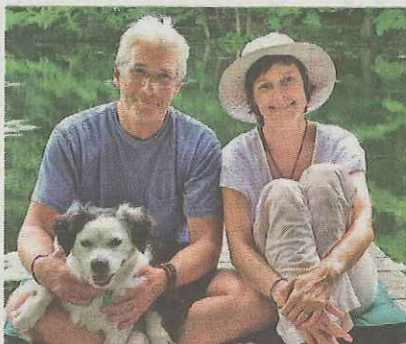
"The intensity of their feelings for their dogs surprised me at times," says St. Germain. "When Chris Meloni

talks about the loss of his miniature schnauzer in high school, he was back in that moment, reliving it. I could tell that was painful for him."

Meloni had just rescued his dog, Frida, when he agreed to participate in the film: "[Co-star] Richard Belzer, who has an almost creepy love affair with his dog, enlisted me," says Meloni.

Watching the film a year later, he realized how his relationship with Frida has changed. "We were getting to know each other then. Now, she looks at me with these eyes and wags her tail. That dog loves me like crazy."

Belzer has no shame in showing his "love affair" with Bebe, his poodle-terrier mix whom he brings everywhere — to work, to premieres, to restaurants. "The dog is becoming more famous than I



Richard Gere and wife Carey Lowell cuddle their dog Billie.

am," Belzer says in one scene. "He's been in TV Guide, he's been in Page Six, he has Web sites devoted to him."

Close's pups, Charlie and Jake, also come with her to work on "Damages," and Edie Falco's dog, Marley, was on the "Sopranos" set every day.

Designer Isaac Mizrahi provides many of the film's funniest moments, particu-



Edie Falco used to bring her dog Marley to the "Sopranos" set.

larly when he explains what a psychic once told him about his past life with his dog Harry: "She said we were nuns together in 17th-century Spain."

The film also has many touching scenes, particularly those documenting the relationship between late actress Lynn Redgrave and her dog, Viola. Redgrave, who battled breast cancer for seven years until she passed away earlier this month, adopted Viola as a companion during her treatment, and often took her to plays and movies.

Similarly, Didi Conn, best known for playing "Frenchie" in "Grease," shares how her family's Old English sheepdog, Madeline, changed the life of her autistic son, Danny.

"Danny has so much going on in his head, so having the responsibility of a dog has been so good for him," Conn explains. It also led Danny to a job at a local grooming facility. "He has a phenomenal memory of dogs' names and breeds," Conn adds.

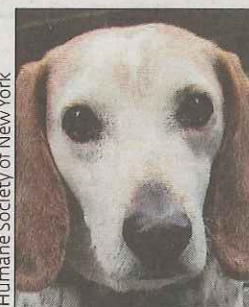
While the movie celebrates a dog's unquestioning love, it also makes you wonder whether pups are really so starry-eyed about their owners. In one scene, poet Billy

Collins' dog, Jeanine, gets up and walks away while Collins reads from his work. "What kind of poetry dog are you?" Collins playfully scolds.

But Meloni figures his shortcomings are covered: "She has crapped on my carpets so often, I think it's even," he says.

[pets@nypost.com](mailto:pets@nypost.com)

## ADOPT ME!



Tyler is a 10-year-old neutered Beagle that's super-friendly and loves to take walks. Meet him from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Humane Society of New York, 306 E. 59th St.; 212-752-4840 or visit [humanesocietyny.org](http://humanesocietyny.org).

## Bridge

THE Law of Total Tricks, which is used to make competitive bids, states that the total number of tricks both sides have in a suit equals the number of cards available. Today's North-South game is 10 diamonds, East-West 10 spades; 19 tricks should be made.

One LOTT problem can't always tell how many tricks your opponents have. When you bid three diamonds and your partner bids four spades, he might have 10 tricks if he'd known North had a 10-card fit. (Three spades failed, North-South sumably have made five tricks.) But East passed. He had a hand and couldn't know if he had four-card diamond support.

East-West could have made 10 tricks, but they went for 11. The Law was absent: South — or didn't — make even more tricks. West shifted to clubs at Trick Two: queen, South took the A-K of trumps, led a club to the ruffed a spade. He exited with East won with the 10 of hearts. Down one.

## Chess When

THE reputation of computers rose and fell — repeatedly — in the world chess championship this month.

Chess-playing programs like the popular proved invaluable in evaluating variations, such as winning Anand's attack in the 12th game. Fans of that final game in real time knew the difference before it happened.

But in other games, were mystified when computers saw huge advantages that did not exist.

For example, some claimed Anand had an edge when he had two rooks and a pawn against a pawn and a fight challenger Topalov's king and queen. Game 8. But computers saw a problem visualizing

## SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE Munich 2010

P. Meister	F. I.
1 d4 ..... Nf6	16 e4 .....
2 c4 ..... e6	17 Bc3 .....
3 Nf3 ..... d5	18 0-0-0 .....
4 Nc3 ..... c6	19 bxc3 .....
5 e3 ..... Nbd7	20 e5 .....
6 Qc2 ..... Bd6	21 Rxd4 .....
7 g4 ..... h6	22 Qxd4 .....
8 Rg1 ..... e5	23 e6 .....
9 cxd5 ..... cxd5	24 exf7+ .....
10 g5 ..... hxg5	25 Nh7+ .....
11 Nxc5 ..... e4	26 Bc4+ .....
12 Bd2 ..... Rxb2	27 Qd7+ .....
13 Nxd5! ..... Nxd5	28 Qe8+ .....
14 Qxe4+ ..... Ne7	29 Nf6+ .....
15 Qf3 ..... Nf6	