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American Dog Rescue Founder Raises Funds at To the Rescue! Gala

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Buddy was a tiny poodle who only weighed five pounds, but the little rescue dog left a big imprint on the heart of philanthropist Arthur E. Benjamin. The pup was the inspiration for his high profile pet parent's founding of American Dog Rescue in 2009, and although Buddy crossed Rainbow Bridge earlier this year the pup's presence was still felt at the recent To the Rescue! gala.

The star-studded soiree, which was held at Cipriani in New York City, raised more than \$1,000,000 for the Humane Society of the United States [Animal Rescue Team](#), thanks in part to Arthur E. Benjamin, who offered \$25,000 in sponsorship support, \$25,000 toward

the Rescue Van during live auction bidding and gave the \$25,000 bid on a Dog Rescue, the funds from which will save 100 animals. Cathy Kangas of PRAI Cosmetics matched the money from Mr. Benjamin's Dog Rescue bid, raising an additional \$25,000 for the organization's Animal Rescue Team and thereby saving the lives an additional 100 animals.

Among the glitterati gathered at the gala were *Blue Bloods* star Will Estes, who took on the role of host for the event; entertainment personality Joan Lunden; iconic artist Peter Max; NBC *Today Show* anchor Matt Lauer and correspondent Jill Rappaport. Rappaport, who was honored during the evening with the first-ever Voice for the Animals Award for shining a spotlight on animal issues on the *Today Show*, is the founder of the Jack and Jill Fund for animal cancer, created in memory of the beloved canine companion who she lost to the disease.

- visit www.americandogrescue.org



Photos courtesy American Dog Rescue