



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEROIC MILITARY DOG TO BE HONORED AT THE INTREPID FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL FLEET WEEK GALA

Original Bronze DOGNY Sculpture to be presented to the City of New York

New York, NY - The American Kennel Club (AKC) and the Intrepid Foundation will present the DOGNY Heroic Military Working Dog Award during the Intrepid's Fleet Week Gala on Thursday, May 27th at the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum, West 46th Street and 12th Avenue at Hudson River Park in Manhattan.

A special AKC presentation will honor working dogs and their handlers who are serving our nation in local communities and throughout the world. A military dog and handler team who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service in Afghanistan and Iraq will be honored with a medal from the AKC.

The presentation will also mark the dedication of the original DOGNY sculpture to the people of the City of New York. This solid bronze rendition of a German Shepherd Dog symbolizes the AKC's charitable program, *DOGNY: America's Tribute to Search and Rescue Dogs*, which raises funds to support canine search and rescue organizations throughout the United States. The sculpture will be unveiled in celebration of its new permanent location at *The Intrepid Remembers 9/11* exhibit on the Intrepid.

Fleet Week is an annual celebration hosted by the Intrepid Foundation and the City of New York. Each year vessels of the US Navy and Coast Guard, and vessels from foreign nations, sail into New York Harbor for a week's stay. Fleet Week pays tribute to the brave men and women who serve in today's Armed Forces. This year close to 10,000 military personnel, some of whom will be returning from action in Iraq, will visit New York during Fleet Week.

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The American Kennel Club (AKC), founded in 1884, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of purebred dogs. The AKC maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world, oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States, and along with its 4,500 licensed and member clubs, educates the general public about responsible dog ownership. More than 15,000 competitions for purebred dogs are held under AKC rules each year including conformation, agility, obedience, tracking,

herding, lure coursing, hunt tests, and field and earthdog trials. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit www.akc.org.

Established in 1982, the Intrepid Foundation supports the operations of the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum, a U.S. Armed Forces memorial, educational and charitable institution in addition to overseeing the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.