

Lifestyle

Also in this section:

ClassifiedsD2
ComicsD5

Friday, March 10, 2006

Pawing Her Way to the Top

■ Lassie's sister, Lulu the collie, is becoming a dog star in her own right.

By **Michelle Gathe**
Senior Photo Writer

She's got the flowing hair, the regal posture, the charisma, but Lulu isn't just another Hollywood breed. The Victoria collie, a 7-year-old sister of Lassie IX is a burgeoning starlet in her own right. Her career includes a Ralph Lauren print campaign and television roles on *Law & Order*.

"When she sits up in the car seat, people will stare out and point," Lassie, Lassie. She looks a lot like her mother, Lassie IX, said owner Coco F. Este.

Along with F. Este, also an actress, Lulu will be leading a page to raise funds for animal welfare during the Mickey Spindler's Show Stopper Stars Spectacular anniversary convention Saturday and Sunday in North Hollywood.

F. Este will assign press photos from each 15' "Photographs" and photo sold to organizations dedicated to microchipping pets. It's a passion she became a calling after watching the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

"In sex owners and pets separated like that we have here, it happens in every day life, too. Collars and tags fall off, things happen. If pets are chipped, they can easily be returned at the point or a vet, they have a chance to be found," Este said.

Often referring to Lulu as her baby, Este became a proud parent seven years ago when she called Lassie, owner and collie breeder Bob Weatherman, who lives in Canyon Country at the time, in search of a puppy. Weatherman was just happened to have a 6-week old collie litter from Father Lauren VIII and mother Lisa. Would he be coming? "Yes," Este said with a big smile. "I was like, yeah? Of course!"

"I was like, 'What night were you?'"

"I was the middle quality was apparent early, as if Este had said.

"She was really cute, watching the chain around her. She had a good solid energy, but very friendly. David said, 'This is the dog,'" Este said. "I still would be thinking the 'Ruffin' Pe' was a little more reserved to her own terms. During that time, F. Este just said her career and acted as Car-

oline's manager, leading her the titular role in Queenie Tarpon's "Kil Bill." According to F. Este, Caroline's professional trajectory coincided with the onset of her marriage.

"Now, granted, she's a multi-talented F. Este, a former journalist and public relations executive, is once again focusing on her own goals. She's featured on the syndicated "El Hollywood Wives Talk" and starred *The Flying Goggles* jewelry line, which is already a hit with F. Este's Hollywood connections, including Shirley MacLaine, Fran Drescher, and Maya Angelou.

Crated in starting alive and 18 karat rose gold and accented with a tiny diamond or pink sapphire, the golden pendant, bracelet, and necklaces were inspired by F. Este's spiritual evolution following her painful divorce.

"Women are all goddesses, we are born that way. We have to remember our inner power that gives us wings to fly," she said.

F. Este started to notice Lulu's power during the dog's first public appearance at Disney's California Adventure premises. While the lead named the dog herself, F. Este didn't know she'd perform under the spotlight.

"There was a whole lot of press there and Lulu just walked the red carpet like a pro, looking at everyone like, 'I like this.' I thought maybe I should start putting her in snuff," F. Este said.

Next came a call to become a contracter in "The First Miss Dog Beauty Pageant." Lulu, Miss Arizona, didn't win the event, but was featured in three promotional spots for the show, including a memorable convertible cruise complete with raincoats.

After a representative meeting with "A to Z Animals," Lulu was picked up for the 2005 Ralph Lauren Kids print campaign. While posing with a girl for the ads, Lulu proved to be more than just a pretty face.

"She was slow to come with the horse, but she grabbed her tail. She just stood there and looked at him like, 'What are you doing?'" F. Este said.

Seems Lulu has a lot of Dr. Doolittle in her. While getting ready for a walk, the dog encountered a squirrel on their stairs. F. Este reached to pet the squirrel as Lulu went and touched noses with the squirrel for a few seconds before the squirrel calmly retreated.

"Lulu's more than happy to give her the love she shares if Este's home with,



Photo by Wally Gumbert/The Signal

(Above) Valencia's Lulu the collie, with owner Coco F. Este enjoy a moment in the park. The actress acquired Lulu from Bob Weatherman, Lassie's owner, as an 8-week old puppy and taught her tricks herself. Lulu, who came from the same litter as Lassie IX, is descended from Lassie VII and mother Star (Flight) Lulu, with owner Coco F. Este, will be signing "Photographs" Saturday and Sunday to raise funds for pet microchipping. The dog has been featured in a Ralph Lauren Kids print ad campaign and TV shows such as "Ghost Whisperer."



"She's amazing. She just gets along with everything and everybody," F. Este said. "She's especially sensitive with little children and the elderly."

As if on cue, on a warm day in Sanger Central Park, Lulu gets into to kiss and play with a hand-squeezed toddler daily. When not traveling, she goes for walks and runs around Santa Clarita Valley's parks.

In addition to public appearances and endorsements, F. Este and Lulu, an AKC Canine Good Citizen, are working toward a pet therapy certification. Otherwise, it's a typical, if not somewhat luxurious, dog's life for the famous collie.

Lulu eats a healthy diet of Semolina Chicken Kibble and Mother Hubbard snacks. She gets her long hair combed daily. When not traveling, she goes for walks and runs around Santa Clarita Valley's parks.

All right, Lulu struggles up to sleep with F. Este.

"She'll show me out of the way and give me a growl," F. Este said with a little humor to any not-a-pet parent. "But I don't mind. She's my baby."

Meet Lulu the Collie and Coco F. Este at Mickey Spindler's Show Stopper Stars Spectacular, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday. *Bevies!* Carline's Hollywood, #222 Universal Blvd., North Hollywood. For more information on Lulu, visit www.luluthecollie.com.