

the art of dog: **NEW BARKER®**

Florida's Top Dog Magazine.



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Her Story Will Steal Your Heart.

The seventh annual America's Top Dog Model® contest ended May 20. The contest theme was "Angel Paws." After a five month nationwide search for top dogs who make a difference, one winner and eleven finalists were

selected. The winner is **Hellen**, a Shih Tzu from Homestead. She was discovered during America's Top Dog Model Casting Call at Woolstock in Idamorada. Hellen's story has captured America's heart.

She was found as a stray, wandering a busy road, and brought to a local shelter where her owner is a volunteer. At first sight, no one could determine Hellen's breed due to her horrible state. But what the volunteers discovered melted their hearts. Not only had Hellen miraculously survived on her own, but all the while being blind. It did not take long for Hellen to capture everyone's heart and gain a forever home with her new owner. Thus began the adventure of Hellen the hero.

She attends many fundraisers designed to help dogs in distress

or get them adopted. When people listen to the amazing story about a dog who survived against all odds, it helps them realize how important rescue organizations are. Hellen also participates in Career Day, visiting classrooms where she helps teach children animal safety, animal related jobs, and pet care. However, the silent most important message Hellen teaches children is despite her disability, she is able to live a normal life, and does not let anything stand in her way.



Photograph by Jenni Seymour-Norton

As the winner of America's Top Dog Model Contest, Hellen's prizes include: Cover of America's Top Dog Model 2013 Calendar, her portrait painted and featured on the cover of **THE NEW BARKER** a Linda Higgins Angel ensemble, a Gold Paw Series coat, a portrait by artist Liz Murtagh, jewelry from Lola's for Pets, Scarlett DreamCoat, shoes from Bella Bark

and Meow, America's Top Dog Model signature ensemble and an autographed copy of *Disa Dogs: A Style Guide to Living the Fabulous Life*. We say, KUDOGs to you, Hellen and a dog's life, well deserved. For information on all of the winners, visit www.AmericasTopDogModel.com