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ISSUE ONE • 2007

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## **Physiology 101**

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## **You Scratch My Back**

*The health benefits of pet ownership*

## **Online & Off the Leash**

*Web sites for furry friends*





# Objects D'og

*Man's best friend is this artist's inspiration*

MARK ULRIKSEN wears his art on his sleeve.

Ulriksen is a successful illustrator whose work is regularly featured on the cover of *The New Yorker* and in other popular publications, as illustrations in children's books, at art gallery showings and as commissioned art work.

His style is colorful, humorous, insightful and real. Even the briefest look at his portfolio of paintings and one can easily surmise that Mark Ulriksen is passionate about three things: jazz and baseball and dogs.



*Mclver*

## **A SAN FRANCISCO NATIVE,**

Ulriksen grew up with a menagerie including hamsters, guinea pigs, a rabbit, two St. Bernards and six cats. After earning a graphics degree, he went to work as a graphic designer in the publishing world. A dozen years later, he made the switch to freelance illustrator and artist.

As a new freelance illustrator in 1994, Ulriksen says he made a deliberate decision to paint dogs. Why? Because, quite simply, he finds them inspiring. As he puts it, "They're great companions, give unconditional love, and all they ask for is love and attention." He also believes that dogs are always giving back, with emotions that are easy to read. In fact,

Ulriksen says there are as many types of dogs as people. Dogs have their quirks, just like humans, and that's okay with him. According to Ulriksen, who's painted the famous and the infamous, newsmakers, musicians, athletes and politicians, there's another plus about painting dogs: "At least pets don't complain about their likeness."

When asked to reflect on his work, Ulriksen quickly points out that he follows the often quoted approach of Norman Rockwell: "If a picture wasn't going well, I'd put a dog in it." In fact, many of Ulriksen's paintings include dogs somewhere in the composition. Whether the main subject matter is Shakespeare in the Park, a piazza in Italy or politicians playing softball, Ulriksen often accents the work with a dog or two.

One of the most joyous and charming works among Ulriksen's portfolio is titled "Ted in Heaven." It's a tribute to Ulriksen's beloved dog, a Chocolate Lab, who was the most faithful of companions. A very content Ted sits on a cloud, among winged tennis balls, in what seems to be the happiest of doggie heavens. Equally as heartfelt is Ulriksen's dedication to Ted in a book he illustrated, *Dog Show* by Elizabeth Winthrop. The dedication reads, "To Ted, a blue ribbon champion to all who knew him."

On a trip to western Pennsylvania, Ulriksen found himself visiting a house on a big plot of property. Half a dozen large, friendly, active dogs had the run of the land and couldn't have been any happier. The thought of his own pack of dogs briefly appealed to Ulriksen, until the reality of his San Francisco home 3000 miles away set in. For now, his canine inspiration comes in the form of his current Chocolate Lab named Henry, who has earned the affectionate nickname of Bonehead. And, although you don't see as many felines in his work, there's a cat named Miles around the house, too.



Ted In Heaven

### BASEBALL MEETS BEAGLES

A few years ago, Ulriksen combined two of his passions – man's best friend and America's favorite pastime – at a gallery show called *Dogs and Baseball*. More recently, he illustrated a limited-edition reprint of the classic baseball book *A Day in the Bleachers* by Arnold Hano. His work was also recently

Award-winning freelance illustrator and artist Mark Ulriksen creates acrylic paintings for major magazines, graphic designers, advertising agencies and book publishers.



PHOTO BY LESLIE FLORES

included in *Top of the 9th: the Art of Baseball*, a showing including 30 artists from across the country. It was the ninth consecutive year for an exhibit that creates an exciting environment to usher in the Major League Baseball season.

In addition to creating many covers for *The New Yorker*, he has contributed to *GQ*, *Rolling Stone*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Vibe* and *The New York Times*. Ulriksen paints commissioned portraits on canvas, wood or board and can work from photographs. His paintings hang in the homes of pet lovers across the U.S. To learn more, visit [www.markulriksen.com](http://www.markulriksen.com).



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