

## The DogChannel Newswire (10-17-08)

**Iraq puppy finds 50,000 friends; inventor offers \$75M for a way to sterilize pets; and other news.**

Posted: October 17, 2008, 5 a.m. EDT

### Ratchet Now Has His Own Senator – And 50,000 Friends

Powerful friends in Washington, D.C., and a worldwide outcry by dog lovers have prompted the U.S. military to agree to release Ratchet, the Iraqi puppy an Army sergeant is trying to get to her Minnesota home. But the black-and-white mutt isn't home free, yet, the Minneapolis (Minn.) Star-Tribune reports.

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### Inventor Michelson Offers \$75M for a Way to Sterilize Pets

A very rich, very impatient retired surgeon wants the pet overpopulation solved. So Gary Michelson has put a hard-to-ignore enticement on the table: \$75 million. The person or group that comes up first with a safe, one-time non-surgical means to sterilize male and female cats and dogs gets \$25 million. And up to \$50 million more will be available to support the research of one or several individuals who come forward with plausible approaches, USA Today reports.

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### Texas Couple Gets Seven Years After Dog Kills Child

A couple whose pit bulls fatally mauled their 7-year-old neighbor was sentenced to seven years in prison, the first conviction under a new Texas law that holds owners responsible if their dogs injure or kill someone, The Associated Press reports.

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### Jury Finds Woman Guilty of Neglecting 40 Animals

A former Fond du Lac, Wis., woman is convicted of neglecting more than three dozen dogs and cats after they were found malnourished or dead in her home, The Associated Press reports.

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