

Firefighters Strike a Pose With Pets for Charity

Proceeds of California firefighter calendar benefit animals in need.

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The firefighters of West Hollywood's Fire Station 8 have unveiled a project that involves their love for animals: a calendar of "sexy" firemen in their gear posing with their pets. The 2009 calendar benefits animals in need through Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation.

Capt. Rick Brandelli, who is featured in the month of August with his dog Riley, a Golden Retriever, said he and his fellow firefighters came together to raise money for a nonprofit they believe in. They selected ARF because of their animal rescue work and for their efforts to educate the public, he said.

"They teach us how animals enrich our lives," Brandelli said. "We all love our animals. Part of our job is rescuing animals, too. The calendar is a perfect fit."

The calendar features full-color photographs and can be purchased online. Actor and honorary firefighter Eion Bailey also appears in the calendar.

The goal is to raise \$100,000 for the foundation, which was created in 1991 by St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa and his wife, Elaine. ARF saves dogs and cats who have run out of time at public shelters, and promotes the benefits of the bonds between humans and animals.