

## The DogChannel Newswire (08-27-09)

**Why you can't afford a dog; SPCA exec's dog dies in hot car; and other news.**

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### Why You Can't Afford a Dog

How much is that doggie in the window? At least \$8,000 over his lifetime – and that's just for basic expenses. Fido costs a lot more if he gets sick, chews up your work boots or ruins the rug. Cats are even pricier: It costs about \$10,415 to be ignored until you run a can opener, MSN.com reports.

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### SPCA Exec's Dog Dies in Hot Car

An executive for an anti-animal cruelty group says her 16-year-old blind and deaf dog died after she accidentally left him in her hot car for four hours. Robin Starr, the CEO of the Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, says she didn't realize Louie was in the car, The Associated Press reports.

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### Stolen Dogs Found in Peru Medical School Lab

At least two stolen dogs were found in an operating room used for dissections at the medical school of South America's oldest university, but its dean denied relying on dognappers to collect specimens for classes, the Los Angeles Times reports.

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### Animal Advocates Want Focus on Dogs, not Vick

The signing of Michael Vick two weeks ago sparked protests from fans and animal lovers appalled that the Eagles would bring in a player involved in fighting, hanging and drowning dogs. Some threatened to boycott the team; protesters waved signs outside Eagles practices; newspapers and radio talk shows spewed endless commentary, The Associated Press reports.

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### Butler Bites Back After Dogfight Accusation

Scottish actor Gerard Butler has hit back after a woman accused him of lashing out following a vicious fight between the pair's dogs. Butler's unleashed pet Lolita bumped noses with Maria Vareckas' Greyhound when the pair were out walking their dogs in New York on Monday, sending the animals into attack mode, the San Francisco Chronicle reports.

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