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October 16, 2007 | Posted at 6:44 PM

Igggy



People say to me a lot how do you do this show if you're in a bad mood? How do you do your show if you're sad or, don't you have bad days? I'm a human being and I have bad days and I have sad days. But when I walk out here and you all cheer and when you're here to dance, you're here to laugh and I know I make people happy. It changes my mood. I come out here and I can do anything because of the

energy I get.

But today is a hard day for me. Today is bad. I am not capable of coming out and pretending to be funny and on when things are going so terribly wrong right now.

I'm so sorry; I'm just not able to pretend. So I'm going to tell you the story. I'm going to get over it and we're going to have a good show and we have a great show. So it's going to be funny and it's going to be everything that you turn the show on for.

Here's what happened. I love animals. I love animals. I rescue them and I've adopted so many animals and found so many animals homes over the years. On September 20, I adopted a dog from a rescue organization here in the area. I got it neutered, I got it trained and I paid my vet extra money to take it home to sleep in the bed with him at night instead of a cage. I spent \$3000 on this puppy to acclimate it, to train it to be with our cats. It was just too much energy and too rambunctious.

My hairdresser who I see every single day, she and her husband have two little girls, eleven and twelve-years-old. They were just looking for a puppy. They have a dog. They said, "We love Iggy can we have Iggy?"

Igggy has been with them for two weeks. I get updates every single day and pictures every day of how happy Iggy is and how much their daughters love Iggy. The organization contacted me yesterday and said, "How's Iggy?" And I told them the truth. I didn't lie. I said, "Iggy has a great home."

Well, I guess I signed a piece of paper that says if I can't keep Iggy, it goes back to the rescue organization. Which is not someone's home, which is not a family. These two little girls had bonded to the dog. I thought I did a good thing. I tried to find a loving home for the dog because I couldn't keep it. I was trying to do a good thing.

Because I did it wrong, those people went and took that dog out of their home, and took it away from those kids. (Wells up with tears). I feel totally responsible for it and I'm so sorry (sobbing) I'm begging them to give that dog back to that family. I just want the family to have their dog. It's not their fault. It's my fault. I shouldn't have given the dog away. Just please give the dog back to those little girls.

I'm sorry I didn't call you. I'm sorry I did the wrong thing. Just give it back to the family. Please please please.

That's the story and that's why I'm feeling like I am responsible for trying to do something and I did it without reading all the things I should have read. So I'm sorry.

(Changing the mood, takes a breath) What a great show we have for you today.

next: 30 Seconds To Air

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If ellen is such an animal lover and the kindest person on earth, where all the other animals she has adopted?? I still cant figure out why everyone assumes that the hairdresser's place was such a loving home when it was proven that the dog she already had was dirty and matted. No dog gets matted after one day playing in the yard like people are claiming. The rescue did the right thing. Anybody who would purposely refuse to honor a contract cant be such a great person. Iggy is much better off.

Posted by Anonymous | June 13, 2008 3:24 PM

Good God, Give Ellen a break. There is not a more kind, caring, loving person on this planet. She loves animals and would never do anything wrong on purpose. Stay like you are Ellen and stay happy
Love Terry Cook

Posted by Terry Cook | June 13, 2008 2:28 PM

hi ellen, i cant believe this story, and poor little iggy still is without this family who wants to love him. how sad for this shelter, they couldnt see past themselves.....hope this comes together soon.....my best, laura

Posted by laura swift | June 12, 2008 3:44 PM

Ellen still doesn't have Iggy. How about it, all you "law professors" and people who know "never-lost-a-case attorneys"? How is it that Ellen never got Iggy back to the family and no action was taken against the rescue....oh yea...you were wrong....hindsight does s*ck, doesn't it?

Posted by Faith | June 4, 2008 10:07 PM

anyone who is insulting Ellen is ridiculous. we all make mistakes, i know for a fact i don't always read the fine print. Ellen is a person, you can't expect her to be perfect. If you want to go insult a celebrity with real errors, go insult britney spears, or paris hilton. Honestly i don't understand why it was such a big deal in the tabloids. she tried to give the dog a loving home, it didn't work. ellen was sad. the end. I neab compared to other stories in the tabloids about cheating, divorce, drugs, and alcohol, this shouldn't have been a big deal. ellen, is a very kind and caring PERSON.

Posted by Meghan Schoon | June 2, 2008 9:02 AM

While I am glad Ellen finally fessed up, took responsibility for her actions and finally apologized for doing the wrong thing, her attempt at using her celebrity status and her show as a forum in order to create some sort a public spectacle or backlash that would shame this organization into returning Iggy to her hairdresser was completely and totally unacceptable. In my estimation, once she realized her contractual obligations she should have immediately returned the pet and then worked quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes with the organization to facilitate if at all possible the legal adoption of Iggy by the hairdresser and her family.

Posted by Lost Viewer | May 31, 2008 9:08 AM

Alison, Nobody doubts that Ellen meant well. The controversy seems to be that people dont think she was obligated to honor the contract she signed.

Posted by observer | May 23, 2008 2:57 PM

hey so if i remember correctly, ellen said the dog went to her stylist and her family. i don't think ellen would just give her dog away to any random person. she obviously had good intentions when she gave the dog to her friend. I just wanted to clarify that.

Posted by Alison | May 20, 2008 5:02 PM

I too have a dog from a shelter. The shelter is a no kill shelter. They also have a clause that is we can't keep the dog that the dog comes back to them. I would (like you did) rather find the dog a new home then send it back to the shelter. I am glad that our dog worked out and loves our kids. I feel bad for my husband because he wanted a dog for him and the dog loves me to death.

Posted by Jennifer Meier | May 18, 2008 6:14 AM

Dear Ellen I adopted a 6 yr old Australian shepherd Blue merle back in early fall. I also have a female springer spaniel, and a basset hound. Also have 4 cats and 2 wk old bobtail kittens helping me type this. Their snoozing right now but they all still say hi. Sox is my adopted one, I've had aussies my whole life, and never had I had such a wonderful experience, as I have with this one he's wonderful with the kids and does not want to leave my sight. I will post you some photos soon of our Family Circus. Thank you for being the animal lover you are. Tell portia Hello she is very lucky. Love always cats and dogs Stephanie Wykle from West Virginia

Posted by Stephanie Wykle | May 8, 2008 7:32 PM

Hello,
Madam,I have just gotten admission to read Advanced Robotics Engineering at a consortium of universities in Europe and the school fees for this european masters programme is 12,000 euros for the two years duration of the programme.In view of this,I am requesting for sponsorship,from you to this effect,as I cannot afford the 12,000 euros-the tuition fees.
Madam,I will furnish you with the details of this programme if you will be kind and generous enough to sponsor this dream of mine.
Thank you.
Emmanuel Essien
(Robotics student from Nigeria)

Posted by emmanuel essien | April 30, 2008 4:15 AM

I am also a rescuer and have to agree with the last person. We see things that most people won't ever know about let alone experience. We get filthy, terrified and malnourished puppy mill dogs and help them get healthy and socialize them. Many of them would have been killed and thrown away like trash when they quit having healthy babies or more dead ones than alive ones. Some animals in shelters have been running the streets for a long time and have parasites, skin conditions and even heart worm infestations. We spend hundreds of dollars sometimes to get a dog healthy and we won't just hand them over to anyone who thinks they might want to TRY a dog for a while. Im sure Ellen had her heart in the right place because I hear she has done many wonderful things for animals. Unfortunately, she disrespected everything we stand for by breaching the contract she signed with the rescue she got Iggy from. We will work with any adopter who needs to rehome their adopted pet but because we must also maintain records, we have to be informed of their whereabouts. We aren't psycho animal hoarders, we just love animals and want to help find them loving homes who will keep them for the rest of their lives. Now a days with the economy so bad, people are abandoning their pets instead of tightening their belts a little. Dogs are being killed in shelters in record numbers right now and unless people start to spay and neuter, the numbers will continue to rise. When I once took a litter of unwanted puppies, I reminded them (a friend) that they needed to get their female spayed. They actually told me that she doesn't go outside, YET this wasn't her first time getting pregnant by accident. I also challenge anyone who doesn't understand what a rescue is about to offer to foster for a while and see how it feels to take responsibility for another little life and then eventually hand them over to someone else to care for. I would be willing to bet you will have a whole new perspective of rescues once that protective feeling for your foster kicks in.

Posted by Birdie | April 27, 2008 7:10 AM

Let me clue you in Patricia. I am a rescue foster. I personally own 9 dogs, 3 cats and numerous other animals. I currently foster a 4 year old dog, 7 puppies, 2 adult female cats and just got a mommy cat and her 4 babies today. I recently assisted in the rescue and transfer of a dog who was adopted and then given to a "good home" without the knowledge of the rescue. This poor female dog was sexually molested in this GOOD HOME! We make a life time commitment to these animals and we take our contracts very seriously. We spend our money to save these animals and we do everything humanly possible to get them healthy and learn to love and trust again. People must fill out applications to adopt these animals and we DO check their references and call their vet. Knowing a celebrity doesn't automatically qualify a person to be the best home for that animal. You people who keep siding with Ellen are so star struck you cant even see the other side. There are over 10,000 dogs killed in shelters every single day in the United States. We do our best to make sure the dogs we rescue dont end up back there. Some will slip through the cracks but that's why we offer a life time open door. No questions asked, we will take any dog back, any time during its entire life. If you want to call that cold hearted and lacking in compassion, then I guess that's what I am. I Wouldn't change a thing because at least I go into this with the animals best interest in mind, NOT sucking up to celebrities that I will never know and who dont even know that I exist. I do it for the animals and that's all that matters to us true rescuers. We might not be able to save them all but we make sure we find the best possible homes for the ones we can. Why not try fostering a dog for a while and then come back in 6 months and tell me how you feel about it!

Posted by not human, must be an alien | April 25, 2008 7:38 PM

Thank you for caring Ellen. I don't have \$ but, whenever a stray cat comes my way, I try to tame it and find it a home. Right now there are 4 living in my garage. When I bring food out I always talk to them. Then sneak a pet here and there. Eventually they are tame enough to find a home. My dog belonged to a neighbor that passed away. We all can help with the stray population in some way.

Posted by Kris Maute | April 25, 2008 3:10 PM

Wow... the person who commented below me is clearly not a human being at all. If that is the first thing that came to your mind when you read this sad story, then you are cold hearted and seriously lacking compassion.

Posted by Patricia | April 25, 2008 1:23 PM

why does everybody keep saying Iggy was in a good home? Nobody knows this person and automatically says they are good just because they know someone famous. If they were such good people, why didnt they just apply to keep Iggy insted of giving the rescue a hard time? The reason is that they thought they could use Ellen's celebrity status to break the rules. wake up people and see this for what it is.

Posted by Anonymous | April 24, 2008 5:30 PM

Ellen,
Please do not blame yourself. I know you feel bad for the family, but everyone does not always read the fine print. You did what you felt was best and I think it is absolutely ridiculous what they did with Iggy. As long as Iggy was in a good home which is what these pounds what for all of their animals then there shouldn't have been any issues or removal of the dog from its owners. As much good as you do for shelters, rescue centers and care for animals, please just mark this done as a learned mistake and do not blame yourself! Ellen. Rescue another dog or purchase another one like Iggy for this wonderful family. Time will heal. Have a great day!! We still love you Ellen. In fact, I rescued/adopted a dog from a shelter and it nipped at my then 3 yr. old. I was ready to turn him over to another family w/o children. I was not aware of this policy either. Thanks for sharing your story and making others aware.

Posted by Betsy Farley | April 24, 2008 1:37 PM

Get that funding I spoke about, fending off animals isn't enough findings homes for dogs isn't enough you need a qualified vet to back up your placements and yes, if the shelter was in your name then your licensed to place strays into loving homes for them to keep, sorry, about the Iggy-thing, but it happens every day back-up your speech do something about it, find someone to help you signify what your trying to do, and never give up hope on your dreams. someone who knows about dreams never coming to life if you give up on the dreams then you become like everyone else,a composit of flesh with no feelings to compare to them that keep and do something with their dreamsThere are women today, that have businesses in their name, you want to know how they do this they file for Government Grants, it takes time but, eventually, you will come out ahead, plus,You have established a name and that in itself is a plus, help the vetrnarians around you by, completing the circle involve them in your name and add their businesses into the same, and see what happens for you, what could it hurt.

Posted by Patricia Hedgepath | April 17, 2008 7:28 AM

Anthony, You asked what would someone else do if we were in her place. What was wrong with honoring the contract she signed? Certainly was a consideration now wasn't it???

Posted by Anonymous | April 16, 2008 4:10 PM

WOW! Every person who posted a comment saying Ellen did the wrong thing is really mean. I think Ellen did a really nice thing, she couldn't keep Iggy because he didnt get along with her cats. So she gave him to a nice family that she knows well, and KNOWS he will be taken care of properly. If you were in her place, what would you do? ELLEN is a caring and great person!

Posted by Anthony | April 15, 2008 6:30 PM

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