

Greg Louganis Talks With Fido Friendly

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# K9 Fusion is "In the House"

By Claudine Randazzo



Most dogs' singing repertoires are limited to howling in harmony with ambulance sirens. Although they do this with great enthusiasm, one must admit that it does not translate into much of a song. Dogs

with a broader repertoire may, in addition to the siren singing, be able to carry a tune with a voice they hear coming through the answering machine speaker. Even with this added talent, it is clear that our dogs' singing shenanigans will never blossom in to a career. One might think that the existence of a true musician dog with a unique sound all his own is impossible. Not so. As unlikely as it may sound, there is a new groove monger on the music scene, and he is unmistakably canine in origin. His name is *Sven the "Love Dog,"* and his story is almost as unlikely as his musical success.

Grinding out hard-hitting emotionally charged rock music may look like a breeze to Sven, who lives with his human companion Steve Brooks in Los Angeles, but as with most success stories, things didn't start out this way. The story really begins with a down-and-out musician (Brooks) and a moving vehicle whose occupants just happened to throw a light brown mutt (Sven) out of the car and into Brooks' path. On that fateful day ten years ago, Sven—only four months old at the time—went from being an unwanted dog in rural Tennessee to future rock star living in the midst of the bright lights and celebrities of Los Angeles.

Surprise, Sven quickly exhibited what can only be described as extreme grouchiness—in the form of a teeth-barring, growling grimace—when given affection. The normal things that dogs are gluttons for, such as back-end and behind the ear scratching, put Sven into an angry state, almost seeming to cause him physical pain. But however bad it looks, no one can accuse Sven of not taking the phrase "tortured artist" seriously.

More than 20 veterinarians advised Brooks to euthanize Sven due to his sensory confusion, where he reacts to pleasure with aggression. Instead, Brooks became a veterinary

Sven suffered serious injuries from his violent tumble out of the vehicle. His physical injuries healed after round-the-clock care from Brooks, but some damage lingered; to Brooks' sur-