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## New & Noteworthy



### April Newsletter The Dogs Are Talking Monthly Dispatch April, 2008

April is National STD Awareness Month. At Dogs Are Talking, we are celebrating by raffling off **4 FREE iPod shuffles** to San Francisco men who support our campaign. You can participate (and enter our drawing) in one of two ways: by getting a free STD test from San Francisco City Clinic, or by participating in our online survey about sexual health. For more details, and to enter the drawing, [click here](#).

In this month's ad, we acknowledge the wide range of places in which men meet each other in and around San Francisco. Here in the Bay Area, we're lucky enough to live in a culture that values sexual diversity and sexual freedom; at Dogs Are Talking, we want to add sexual health to the list. Bob the American Terrier (casting call participant no. 13) delivers the message to us: no matter where you meet your partners, please do remember to get tested for syphilis! Men with multiple partners should be tested every 3-6 months.

#### Making "Go Sex" Safe Sex

"Go" sex is the kind of play that takes place without your knowing it's going to happen, and in most cases it's with someone you don't know well or at all. It might happen when you're out alone, out of town, or suddenly find yourself with a lot of hits on your favorite website. These days, it can be risky to make assumptions about people you meet

casually, and wise to have a backup plan in case something goes wrong. Here are a few things to think about before you email your home address to a prospective partner, or hop into your car and go over to his place.

### **Online & Cyber Sex Match-Ups**

Keep in mind that online anonymity isn't as secure as you might think—anyone with a little time and ingenuity can find out more than you realize with a few easy searches. So be careful of how much information you provide in your profile or chats.

When you are using most chat functions, turn on chat logging. This feature makes a copy of each chat and stores it on the computer. Print out a copy and leave it somewhere where it can be found if you go missing. (If you plan to drive, consider leaving a second copy in your car with his name and address.)

Always try to get his name and number in advance, and then confirm that the number really is his before you go.

Call or email a good buddy and explain that you are lining up a scene with someone you don't know well. Make a contact arrangement—an SMS, phone call, or other signal you promise to respond to unless you are unable, at which point your friend should call for help on your behalf.

Trust your instincts. If it doesn't feel right, STOP. Don't be afraid to ask him to leave or get yourself out of there.

### **Bar & Club Encounters**

Make sure you are seen talking to and leaving with your new “pal.”

On your way out, try to connect with a friend and introduce your pal. Mention that you're going back to his place or your place for some fun, and add that you'll speak with your friend later that night or the next morning. This conversation sends a pretty strong message that people know who you are, when you left, and took note of the person you left with.

Most men now carry some form of a “trick”: a contact card, or business card. Ask for his before you leave—you might offer yours in exchange. You can always give it to a friend at the same venue for safekeeping. If the sex is great and the chemistry works, you can always ask for another, saying you lost the other one in the excitement of getting him home.

Keep it in mind that having sex, including casual encounters, adds lots of spice to life. But it is very important to take care of yourselves. That old adage is appropriate here: sometimes the best defense is a good offense.

### **Free April Testing Events**

April 25th, 2007

3:00–8:00 PM

2278 Market Street at Noe (the former Tower Records Store)

With special guests: Energy 92.7 radio personalities Greg & Fernando

We will be offering syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia & HIV testing. And we will be offering a raffle, music, snacks and more.

Other FREE April testing sites:

April 4 – Gym Castro Testing (5–8 PM)

April 5 – At the Powerhouse bar (10 PM–1 AM)

April 27 – At El Rio Bar (5–8 PM) & Jet Bar (9 PM–12 AM)

(Look for the Stop AIDS Project’s Mobile RV!)

Call (415) 355–2009 for additional locations.

### **Dogs Are Talking Partners with DeLano IGA Market**

As San Francisco becomes greener, DeLano IGA and the Dogs Are Talking campaign have formed a new partnership to provide consumers with free canvas shopping bags.

“We are proud to be a part of the community. We believe that the community defines us, not us defining the community,” says Desiree DeLano, Vice–President of Community Relations at DeLano Retail Partners. In addition to distributing shopping bags, the market will display information about the Dogs Are Talking campaign. Other community partners supporting the campaign include PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), Project Magnet, Blow Buddies, and Jeffrey’s Natural Pet Foods.

The DeLano IGA Market is located in the Castro district at 4201 18th Street (at Castro).

### **Help Spread the Word**

Remember, if you like a particular poster or you know the perfect spot for it, please don’t hesitate to download it from our website. All our posters are available to be downloaded at any time, and we want you to hang them up all over town—don’t let any wall space go to waste! Help us remind gay and bisexual men to get tested for syphilis.

### **Dogs Are Talking Seeks New Community Partners in 2008**

Do you have access to an audience within your neighborhood or community? Or would you just like to help us get the word out? Either way, we hope you will consider becoming a community partner or a Dogs Are Talking campaign sponsor. We plan to strengthen our campaign by increasing community participation over the year ahead. If we all work together, we can get rid of syphilis in San Francisco. Give Promotions West a call at 415.255.0800 or send an email to [info@dogsaretalking.com](mailto:info@dogsaretalking.com). We’d love to hear from you today.

### **Newsletter Archive:**

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Contact us at [info@dogsaretalking.com](mailto:info@dogsaretalking.com)

[STDtest.org](http://STDtest.org) | [sfcityclinic.org](http://sfcityclinic.org) | 415.487.5580

