



The Pet Press

*For The People Who Love Animals And
The Animals Who Need To Be Loved*

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Robert Kovacik

NBC4's Reporter Is Such A Best Friend To Animals... Nothing Seems To "Bug Him"

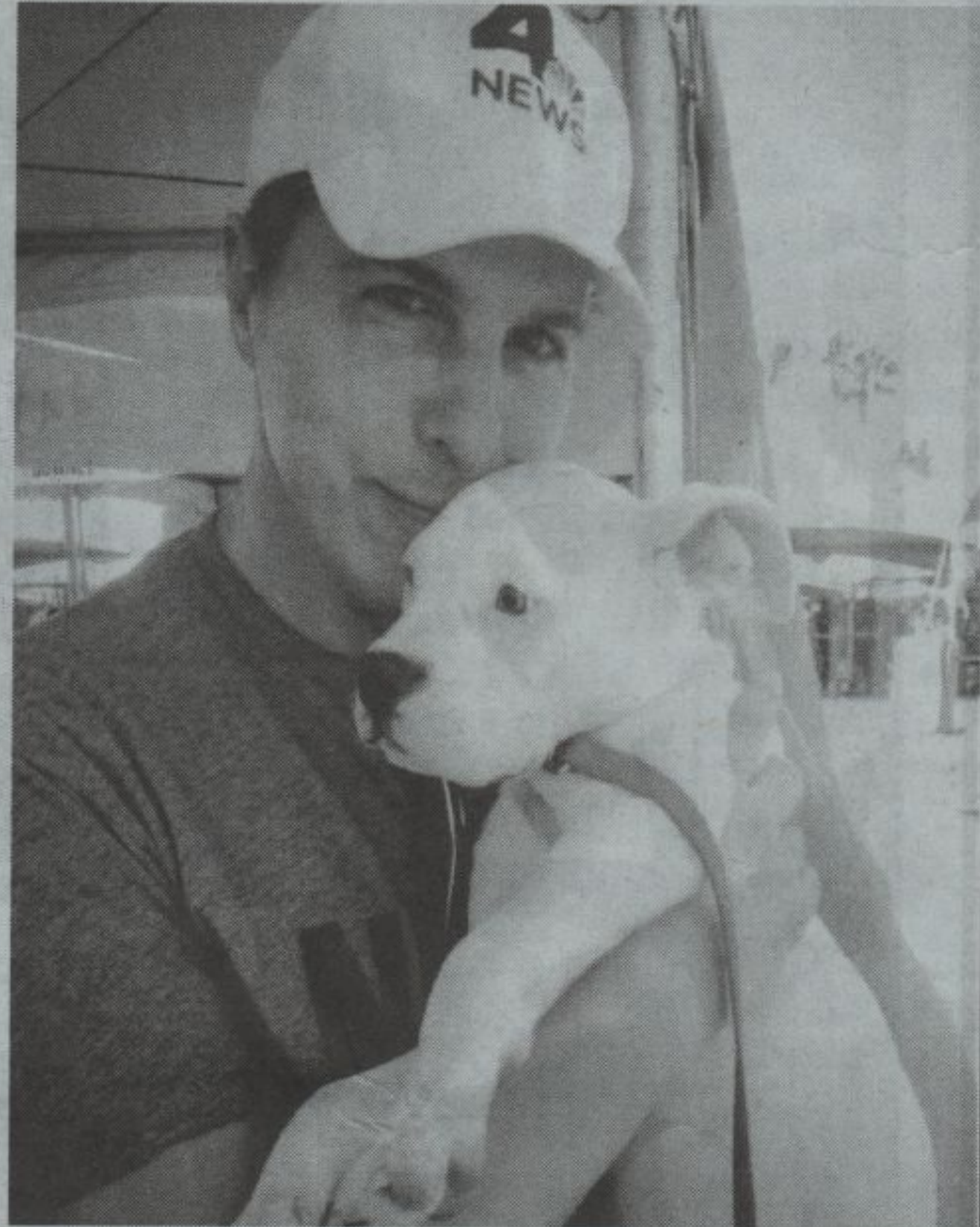
By Lisa Lyons

As a child growing up in the suburbs of Cleveland, the youngest of four children raised by a divorced mother, Robert Kovacik says there was always a dog in the household - and most often they were Saint Bernards.

"When my mom and dad were dating in college, she fell in love with the school mascot--a big Saint Bernard named Brandy", he recalls. "She even took the dog home with her one weekend. After they married, they continued to rescue Saint Bernards. We ended up calling all of them Brandy!"

Love and respect for both animals and people was the standard in the Kovacik home, instilled in them by their mother, Landa. It's this compassionate nature that drew Robert to his life's passion: telling stories that move the heart.

Who can forget his heartfelt coverage of Fergus, the beautiful puppy who was badly burned with acid and sent to an LA County shelter in the high desert before Southern California Golden Retriever Rescue stepped in and turned to Robert for help. The shot of him holding Fergus with his head buried in Robert's arms had even his veteran cameraman misting up. That story earned him one of his recent Emmy nominations and he's invited Fergus and his new owners to attend the Emmy award ceremony. He really wanted to adopt



Robert Kovacik w/ Adoptable Best Friend Pup

Fergus himself, and was one of hundreds of applicants from around the world to offer a home to the sweet pet. Eventually, Fergus was adopted by Calabasas residents Vic and Anngel Benoun. The couple are now training Fergus to become a therapy dog to help other burn victims. (See photo of Robert and Fergus p.20)

Robert was honored by the British Consul-General after his coverage of the London Olympics for NBC4 and received widespread acclaim for his reverential yet

(cont'd on page 20)

**ADOPT
DON'T SHOP!**