



### \*\*\* THE VANDERPUMP DOG FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING GALA A HUGE CELEBRITY-STUDED SUCCESS \*\*\*

**NOVEMBER 4 2016** - On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, Lisa Vanderpump and The Vanderpump Dog Foundation hosted its first annual Gala at the Taglyan Cultural Complex in Los Angeles. The purpose of the Gala was to raise awareness about their efforts to end the dog meat trade, draw attention to their current and future campaigns within the US and raise money to continue The Foundation's work. The Gala was a complete success – hundreds of people gathered together to celebrate dogs, and help them improve the lives of abused and mistreated dogs both domestically and internationally.

The Gala's red carpet kicked off at 6pm, with a beautiful candlelit cocktail hour and a silent auction. Celebrities and attendees bid on a variety of donated luxury items; from hotel stays to dog beds and diamond earrings. At 7:30pm the doors opened to a stunning ballroom complete with pink roses and cherry blossom trees, for a dinner that included music, dancing, celebrity performances, celebrity speakers and a live auction.

Mario Lopez began the evening and continued to host throughout the night. The Vanderpump Dog Foundation's founder, Lisa Vanderpump, made a heart-wrenching and moving speech, while introducing the trailer for our upcoming documentary "The Road to Yulin."

The night began with an amazing performance by Leona Lewis singing the Foundation's *Stop Yulin Forever* campaign song "(We Are All) Looking For Home," that was generously donated to the Vanderpump Dog Foundation by award-winning songwriter Diane Warren. Eric Benét also gave a fabulous performance to the attendees, which was followed up by a lighthearted performance (complete with dancing dog costumes!) by some of the troupe and pros from *Dancing with the Stars*.

Many of Lisa's close friends showed up to support the cause, including a wonderful amount of celebrities who helped raise awareness on the red carpet and through social media. *Real Housewives* cast members Gretchen Rossi & Slade Smiley, Taylor Armstrong, Stephanie Hollman, Eden Sassoon, Joyce Giraud, Dorit & Paul Kemsley and Kyle Richards & Mauricio Umansky were in attendance. *Vanderpump Rules* cast members Jax Taylor, Kristen Doute, Brian Carter, Brittany Cartwright, Scheana Shay, Stassi Schroeder, Peter Madrigal, Katie Maloney-Schwartz, Tom Schwartz, LaLa Kent, Ariana Madix, Tom Sandoval and James Kennedy came out to support. Other celebrities including *Extra's* Mario and Courtney Lopez, *Dance Moms' Nia Sioux*, *Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles's* David Parnes and James Harris, Terri Seymour, Christy Gibel, Bruce Vilanch, Mohamed Hadid, Julz Tocker, Fortune Feimster, and Rochelle Aytes were also in attendance.

For more information on The Vanderpump Dog Foundation visit their website [www.vanderpumpdogs.org](http://www.vanderpumpdogs.org)

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### ABOUT THE VANDERPUMP DOG FOUNDATION

The Vanderpump Dog Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit dog rescue organization, working on both a domestic and international front to help create a better world for dogs globally. Founders Lisa Vanderpump & Ken Todd began the long journey towards trying to stop the barbaric torture practices at the Yulin Dog Meat Festival and end the dog meat trade in Asia, in 2015. Together with their partner Dr. John Sessa, they launched the campaign Stop Yulin Forever, which ultimately led them to create The Vanderpump Dog Foundation. The movement gained momentum and has inspired activists all over the world to work towards ending the Yulin Dog Meat Festival and encourage more humane treatment for dogs worldwide.

The Vanderpump Dog Foundation was formed to not only aid in ending this international atrocity, but to also better the lives of dogs domestically. The United States faces many problems of its own including dog overpopulation, abuse, neglect and lack of education with regards to spaying and neutering pets. With the opening of their new Vanderpump Dog Rescue Center in Los Angeles, The Vanderpump Dog Foundation aims to reduce these problems within California and beyond, as well as continue their national and international campaigns built on a platform of education, legislation, and activism.

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