



Presents

# LIFE IN THE DOGHOUSE

A Documentary Feature Film  
By Ron Davis

USA  
Run Time | 83 min

<http://lifeinthedoghousemovie.com/>

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2018 Provincetown International Film Festival - Official Selection  
2018 Frameline Film Festival - Official Selection

For downloadable press materials please go to:  
<http://filmrise.com/film/life-in-the-doghouse>

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### **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

LIFE IN THE DOGHOUSE tells the inspiring life stories of Danny Robertshaw and Ron Danta and the remarkable work they do at Danny & Ron's Rescue. Ten years and 10,000 dogs later, their unique approach to life and dog rescue will capture hearts and inspire millions to make the right choices when it comes to man's best friend.

### **LONG SYNOPSIS**

As a child, Danny Robertshaw's mom would take him to rescue shelters and explain, "You don't buy a pet, you save one." So, in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina's surge broke through the levees in New Orleans and thousands of dogs were left stranded, Danny and Ron Danta, his partner of 30 years, stepped up to save the lives of the abandoned dogs. The veteran horse trainers and animal lovers drove their horse trailer down and back from South Carolina to New Orleans, bringing home 40-60 dogs per trip. Dedicating all of their own resources to the effort -- including their own home -- they eventually rescued and found homes for more than 600 dogs, and Danny & Ron's Rescue 501(c)(3) was founded.

LIFE IN THE DOGHOUSE was directed by Ron Davis, the award-winning filmmaker of the *NY Times* Critic's pick and 2016 box-office hit, HARRY AND SNOWMAN. The film tells the inspiring life stories of these two men and the selfless work they continue to do. With a no-kennel policy, there can be as many as 75 dogs living with them in their home at any given time; the dogs also join them on the horse show circuit on their journey of finding their "forever home." Danny & Ron were honored with the 2008 ASPCA Humanitarian Award for their unwavering personal sacrifice and unique approach to dog rescue & adoption during hurricane Katrina.

Ten years and almost 10,000 dogs later, Danny & Ron's Rescue has become the voice for abused, abandoned and starving dogs. Their story captures hearts, entertains, educates and will inspire millions to make the right choices when it comes to man's best friend.



## CREW

### **RON DAVIS (Director/Producer)**

Ron, founder of Docutainment Films, directed & produced the 2016 box-office hit *HARRY & SNOWMAN*, as well as the critically acclaimed 2013 HBO feature documentary, *MISS YOU CAN DO IT*. In 2010, his feature documentary, *PAGEANT*, garnered more than 10 film festival awards and premiered on The Sundance Channel. Ron is also in production on the feature documentary, *I AM WE*.

### **MICHAEL CULYBA (Editor)**

Michael has been editing for over thirteen years. His recent credits include *DIXIE CHICKS: SHUT UP & SING* (Toronto International Film Festival 2006), *URBANIZED* (Toronto International Film Festival 2011), *RUNNING FROM CRAZY* (Sundance Film Festival 2013) and *MY OWN MAN*, produced by Edward Norton (TriBeCa Film Festival 2014). He edited Barbara Kopple's *THIS IS EVERYTHING: GIGI GORGEIOUS* (2017 Sundance Film Festival).

### **BOB EISENHARDT, A.C.E (Editorial Consultant)**

Bob is a three-time Emmy® Award winner and Oscar® nominee. With over 60 films to his credit, he has edited documentaries for Barbara Kopple, Maysles Films, Susan Froemke, Matt Tyrnauer, Marc Levin, David Grubin and Alex Gibney.

### **CLAY WESTERVELT (Director of Photography/ Producer)**

Clay filmed the Emmy®-winning documentary *THE LEGEND OF PANCHO BARNES* and *THE HAPPY BOTTOM RIDING CLUB*, as well as the Grammy® nominated *JOHNNY CASH'S AMERICA*. Clay and Ron collaborated on *HARRY & SNOWMAN*, *MISS YOU CAN DO IT* and *PAGEANT*.

### **NANCY KNOX TALCOTT (Producer)**

Nancy was as an associate producer on the Oscar® nominated HBO documentary, *GOD IS THE BIGGER ELVIS*. She PRODUCED *HARRY & SNOWMAN* and was responsible for all the archival footage on the 2014 acclaimed HBO documentary *THE NEWBURGH STING*.

### **ELIK ALVAREZ (Composer)**

Elik co-composed the music for several of the latest of Sir David Attenborough's groundbreaking mini-series, including the Lumiere Award winner and BAFTA nominated *CONQUEST OF THE SKIES 3D*, *IMAX GALAPAGOS: NATURE'S WONDERLAND*, *MICRO MONSTERS 3D* AND *KINGDOM OF PLANTS 3D*, which won Best Documentary Score at the 2013 International Film Music Festival Provincia de Cordova.



## **SUBJECT BIOS**

### **DANNY ROBERTSHAW**

Born August 14, 1954 in Woonsocket, RI, Daniel Robertshaw had rescue DNA in his blood. As a young child, his mom would take him to shelters and say, “You don’t buy a pet, you save one.” Dan began riding horses at the age 10, a few years after his family moved from Rhode Island to Wilmington, NC. That year would become a milestone for Danny, as he was gifted his first pony.

After graduating from UNC Wilmington in 1976 with a degree in English and Education, he began riding horses professionally in 1978. His career quickly took off and he became a championship rider at major horse shows including Devon, Pennsylvania National, Washington International and at Madison Square Garden. Danny made equestrian history in 1987 when he became the first to win Champion in the Regular Working Hunter at Devon, Pennsylvania National, Washington International, Madison Square Garden and the Royal Winter Fair - all in the same year. He continued his winnings and by 1989 he received “The Chronicle of The Horse Horseman of The Year” and was the Winner of the United States Equestrian Federation Emerson Burr Trophy. He has been inducted into the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame and The Carolina Hall of Fame.

His life transformed tremendously in the late 1980’s when he began rescuing dogs. His devotion to saving and caring for homeless dogs garnered him a dedicated chapter in the book “Saved and the Animals Lives They Transform,” by Karin Winagar. When Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, he and his life-partner, Ron Michael Danta, drove their horse trailer down and back from South Carolina to New Orleans, bringing home 40-60 dogs per trip. Dedicating all of their own resources to the effort — including their own home — Danny and Ron eventually rescued and found homes for more than 600 dogs. In 2008, he and Ron formed a 501(c)(3), Danny & Ron’s Rescue and in that same year, both he and Ron were named ASPCA Honoree of The Year. In 2010, Danny was awarded the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) Lifetime Achievement Award.

Danny is a United States Equestrian Federation “R” licensed judge and serves as a committee member for both US Equestrian and the United States Hunter Jumper Association. In addition to his tireless efforts with Danny and Ron’s Rescue, he continues to pilot some of his era’s most celebrated show hunters to championships.



## **RON DANTA**

Born April 8, 1954 in Chicago to a Lithuanian family, Ronald fondly remembers his first dog “Sandy,” which he met when he was 2 years old. He began riding horses when he was 7, shortly after his family moved to Barrington, Illinois and he hasn’t stopped with horses since. He taught horseback riding in 1973 while attending Harper College. A year later, he started his own business – teaching people how to ride and show horses.

Ron was married in 1980 after moving to South Carolina. He then began working at Fair Croft Farms, which he eventually bought in 1985. In 1987, it was clear that that marriage was not for him and he divorced his wife of 7 years.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Ron’s horses won numerous championships at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, Washington International Horse Show, at Madison Square Garden, Devon and others throughout the country. Ron is a three-time winner of the United States Hunter Jumper Associations, in 2006, 2007 and 2010. He received the President’s Distinguished Service Award, was named the USHJA Volunteer of The Year in 2009, and in 2012 he was Chronicle of The Horse’s “Show Hunter Horseman of The Year.” Ron has Chaired the USHJA International Hunter Derby Program from its inception.

In the mid 1980’s, after meeting his life-partner, Daniel James Robertshaw, he and Dan began rescuing dogs. A chapter was devoted to his and Daniel’s unique rescue philosophy in Karin Winegar’s book, “Saved and the Animals Lives They Transform.”

Three weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, he and Danny sent transport back and forth to New Orleans, saving over 600 abandoned dogs. In 2008 he and Dan were named the ASPCA Honorees of the Year for their rescue of the Katrina dogs. In 2008 Danny and Ron’s Rescue was formed.

Ron continues to show hunters and jumpers at Beaver River.



## CREDITS

Learn how you can support dog rescue at  
[LifeintheDoghouseMovie.com](http://LifeintheDoghouseMovie.com)

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Music and Lyrics by Cat Stevens  
Performed by Cat Stevens  
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