



## **LIGHTS, CAMERA, WOOF!**

*Alvin's Animal Rentals: Hollywood's only Black Animal  
Company Paves the Way*





## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **LIGHTS, CAMERA, WOOF!**

*Alvin's Animal Rentals: Hollywood's only Black Animal Company Paves the Way*

**Los Angeles, California, September 25, 2009.** Lights, Camera, Woof! For the past 30 years, Alvin's Animal Rental has been in numerous leading roles in some of the country's Film and Television hits. Even though you have seen the work of Alvin Mears in more than 80 feature films, 81 television series and a plethora of commercials and videos since 1977, you would not recognize him if you saw him walking down the street for his lines are delivered through the bark of his dogs. As one of the most notable animal trainers in the film and entertainment industry, it is safe to say he sticks out like a sore thumb as the only Black-owned animal company and sometimes the only Black trainer on many sets and projects. The mention of his profession also seems to draw attention for many people are not aware of such a career choice. In true trail-blazing form, Alvin is proof that there are other opportunities in Hollywood that does not involve being in front of the lens. Striking out on this sentiment perhaps, has led him to become his own success story.



**Alvin with Cesar Millan,  
the "Dog Whisperer"**

Established in 1979 as a specialty animal training company, Alvin's Animal Rentals provides quality and performance-driven animal talent to the motion picture, print and advertising industries. The earliest testament of Mears showcasing his incredible talent was with the 1979 *Amityville Horror* movie in which he had to **train flies!** Although he specializes in both domestic and wild animals, Alvin is regarded in the industry for his work with aggressive dogs using Dobermans, Rottweilers, and German Shepards.

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Mears was 12 when he rescued a battered Shepard-mixed puppy named Toby. After nursing Toby back to health and teaching him a few tricks along the way, Alvin unexpectedly found his career passion - animals.

Moreover, at 5'5", commanding such obedience does not seem like an easy feat, yet he makes it look as easy as 1-2-3. He is a recipient of the *Patsy Award* for his work in "*Return of Remo Williams*" and a *Cleo* advertising award for a Stroh's beer commercial featuring spokes-dog, Alex. Mears' credits boast a list of impressive film and TV projects from his most recent TV series with **HBO's** *Entourage* (*Arnold the Rottweiler*) to *Fast and Furious*, and *Iron Man* just to name a few. Print credits include *TV Guide*, *Progressive Insurance*, *Animal Calendar* and *Dog World*. He is also recognized for training and owning star animal actors such as **Flash**, the *Duke's of Hazzard* loveable lazy Bloodhound and **Chico**, the pet pit-bull of character "*Day-Day*" on *Friday* and *Friday After Next*.

Alvin has also been an active force with the American Humane Association. Over the years, he has been helpful in establishing safety protocol and standards for the treatment and care of animal actors utilized in the motion picture industry.

With a profession such as this, one can only imagine the list of celebrities with whom he has worked! "*John Travolta (Eyes of An Angel), Whoopi Goldberg (Ghost), Adrian Grenier (Entourage) are just a few actors and actresses that I have worked with on some of my favorite projects,*" exclaims Alvin. "*I believe what makes me even more unique to my profession is that I can coordinate, produce, direct and execute any animal show using creatures as small as insects to elephants.*"

### **Not Your Ordinary Gig**

With over 30 years of behind-the-scenes experience in the entertainment industry, Alvin enjoys his career, "*My job is like my personal hobby because I love what I do,*" remarks the trainer. Mears also mentions, "*It is very easy to remember and to recall singers, actors, actresses and entertainers who are already famous, it's the people behind-the-scenes who are often forgotten about or looked over.*"

Although the awkwardness of being one-of-a-kind, in profession and skin, is long gone, Alvin has endured many challenges in Hollywood, "*Even as an animal trainer, I am*

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*sometimes looked over because of my skin color” but he still continues to persevere in the competitive world of Hollywood.*

Growing up, Mears lied to his mother and told her that Toby was a friend’s dog that he was watching. Today, he is telling another story; one of truth and rare form for his whole professional existence is usually thought of as “what,” or “a who?” by your everyday TV and film watcher. However, Alvin usually sparks interest when it comes to revealing what he does, *“When I tell people that I work in the film industry, they quickly try to place my face as an actor, producer, or director. They forget or fail to recognize the many other roles and professions that make a filming project possible, such as the drivers, the camera operators, and craft services, yet they are immediately intrigued about what I do once I tell them.*

### **Everyone...Take Five!**

At exactly 11:01 p.m., Alvin wraps up a typical shooting day on the set of **HBO**’s *Entourage*. This will be his 6th season as the show’s animal trainer and provider. While days on the set are filled with fun, laughter, and dog hair, the impact of Alvin’s work is often remembered for the animal’s performance as well as his outgoing personality.



After years of completely dedicating his craft to the industry, will he feel a sense of void when it is all over? Mears recalls a moment with actor Adrian Grenier (*Entourage*), *“Adrian comes up to me and yells out, “What’s up Alvin, where’s Arnold?” so I know that I have an impact when actors and stage-hands show interest in my animals and work.” “I keep going each year for many reasons,” says Mears, “but when it’s all said and done, I will feel like I did a job well done.”*

### **Okay Everyone, It’s a Wrap**

For more information about Alvin Mears or Alvin’s Animal Rental, please call 909-714-6116 or visit online at [www.alvinanimals.com](http://www.alvinanimals.com).



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***Entourage's* Four-legged Sidekick Arnold Goes to D.C.**

*To host the Animal Health Institute's "Pet Night" Event*

Los Angeles, California, September 25, 2009. Animal provider and trainer, **Alvin Animal Rentals**, gets political as he and canine-actor **Arnold** from HBO's "**Entourage**" participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Pet Night** hosted by the **Animal Health Institute** in **Washington D.C.** on **September 30**, from **5 to 7 p.m.** The event will take place in the **Cannon House Office Building** located at **Independence Avenue** and **1st Street, SE Washington, DC 20003.**

Regarded as one of **President Obama's** favorite TV shows according to politico.com, *Entourage* will see its four-legged cast member engaged with members of Congress and staff to celebrate the bond between pet and owner. Arnold, a Rottweiler with a cuddly personality, will be featured as one of the celebrity animal actors appearing to take pictures and mingle with the public. Animal trainer *Alvin Mears* says "*We are excited to be apart of this event, Arnold has been practicing his smile in the mirror!*" Although it is not confirmed, "*Who knows, Arnold may even get to shake paws with First Dog Bo,*" exclaims Alvin.



The Animal Health Institute is a trade association that represents companies that make pet medicine. **Alvin's Animal Rentals** has been in the industry for over 30 years. Owner and head-trainer *Alvin Mears* is widely known and respected amongst peers. He has been the animal trainer and training Arnold to be the loveable burly sidekick to Vince and his buddies on the award-winning **HBO** series *Entourage*, for the past 5 seasons and its current sixth season. **For more information, please call Alvin Animal Rentals at 909-714-6116 or visit online at [www.alvinanimals.com](http://www.alvinanimals.com).**

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## Alvin Animal Rentals Credits

### Television~Film~Print

#### Movies

**Full Moon**  
**6th Day**  
**A Piece of the**  
**Action**  
**Amityville**  
**Horror**  
**Baby Boy**  
**Big Daddy Bar-**  
**B-Que**  
**Bill and Ted's**  
**Bogus Journey**  
**Black Magic**  
**Woman**  
**Carrie Return**  
**Home**  
**Catch That Girl**  
**Cat's Eye**  
**Cinderella Story**  
**Chicken Little**  
**Donato and**  
**Daughter**  
**Downtown**  
**European Soccer**  
**Dog**

**Eyes of an Angel**  
**Fallacy**  
**Fangs**  
**Fast and the**  
**Furious 4**  
**Father of the**  
**Bride**  
**Garage Sale**  
**Gone But Not**  
**Forgotten**  
**Grinch**  
**Halloween 5**  
**Harlem Nights**  
**Hillside**  
**Strangler**  
**Holly Moses**  
**In The Mouth of**  
**Madness**  
**Infectious Films**  
**Iron-Man**  
**Junior**  
**K9 11**  
**Klondike Fever**

**Love Come to**  
**the Executioner**  
**Menace II**  
**Society**  
**Motel Hell**  
**Next Friday**  
**Nickels and**  
**Dimes**  
**Nightmare**  
**Room**  
**Old Fish Hawk**  
**On Deadly**  
**Ground**  
**Rain**  
**Ramsack**  
**Reno 911 Miami**  
**Return of Remo**  
**Williams**  
**Shilo**  
**Shoot-em Up**  
**Sin City**  
**Sophie and the**  
**Moonhanger**  
**Species III**

**Sucker Free City**  
**SWAT**  
**Terminator 2**  
**The Hulk**  
**The Jury**  
**Tin Soldier**  
**Training Day**  
**Walker Payne**  
**What's Love Got**  
**To Do With It**



**Bob from *Shiloh***

#### Television

**Acceptable TV**  
**Air Hollywood**  
**Alan Strange**  
**Show**  
**All of Us**  
**Americana Cafe**  
**America's**  
**Funniest Videos**  
**America's Most**  
**Wanted**  
**Bet**  
**Beverly Hills**  
**90210**  
**Big Handsome**  
**Brisco County**  
**Budget For Ho**  
**Cat on a Gurney**  
**Charmed**

**Cheers**  
**City of Angels**  
**Comedy Central**  
**Commander and**  
**Chief**  
**Courting Alex**  
**Crash Miniseries**  
**Crook and**  
**Chase**  
**CSI: Las Vegas**  
**Diagnosis**  
**Murder**  
**Dinner and a**  
**Movie**  
**Dukes of Hazard**  
**Entourage**  
**FM**  
**Friends**

**George Lopez**  
**Get Reel**  
**Gideon's Web**  
**Going Down**  
**Good Morning**  
**America**  
**Grand**  
**Half & Half**  
**Half Nelson**  
**Heroic Animals**  
**Hillside**  
**Strangler**  
**Hot Properties**  
**It's Always**  
**Sunny in**  
**Philadelphia**  
**Jeff of the**  
**Universe**

**Julie Farr M.D.**  
**Knots Landing**  
**LA Center**  
**Studio**  
**Laucan**  
**Madam of the**  
**People**  
**Models Inc.**  
**Moesha**  
**Monsters**



**"Arnold" (Rottweiler) from  
HBO's *Entourage***



My Boys  
Numb3rs

Punk'd (MTV  
Productions)  
Quantum Leap  
Raven  
Reno 911  
Scarecrow and  
Mrs. King  
Simple Plan  
Sinbad  
Sirens  
Sisters  
Slicker  
Spring Break  
Summerland  
The Agency

The Division  
The Game (C/O  
CBS Studios)  
The History  
Channel  
The Middleman  
The Parenthood  
The Shield  
Those Amazing  
Animals  
Those Amazing  
Stories  
Today Show  
Tonight He  
Comes



Alvin and "Flash" the  
Basset Hound on *Dukes of  
Hazzard*

## Commercials

American Eagle (Internet)  
Atari  
Cingular Wireless  
Coca-Cola  
Honda  
Memorex  
Nike  
Pepsi

Planters Peanuts  
Stroh's Beer  
Sunlight Dish Soap  
T.V. Kids  
The Cup  
United States Poster  
Verizon  
WWF



Alvin accepting Patsy Award  
for *The Return of Remo  
Williams*

## Print

Animal Calendar  
Dog Walk  
Dog World  
L.A. Times  
L.A.V.P.  
People Magazine  
Progressive Insurance  
Star Magazine  
T.V. Guide



Escorting *Beethoven* to movie premiere



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