

Canine Hero of 9/11 to be Cloned by BioArts International

“Trakr”, now disabled, wins Golden Clone Giveaway

For Immediate Release: Mill Valley, CA, June 30 – “Once in a lifetime, a dog comes along that not only captures the hearts of all he touches but also plays a pivotal role in history.” So begins the winning essay submitted by James Symington to the BioArts *Golden Clone Giveaway* contest.

Symington, a former police officer who now lives in Los Angeles, and his German Shepherd, Trakr, were among the first search & rescue teams to arrive at Ground Zero following 9/11. Together they braved horrific conditions while searching for both living and dead, ultimately locating the last human survivor under approximately 30 feet of unstable debris.

Trakr’s story was selected from a large pool of submissions from around the world. BioArts International, which is also holding an historic auction of 5 dog cloning slots from July 5th-9th, sponsored the *Golden Clone Giveaway* with the goal of identifying the world’s most “clone-worthy” dog and replicating it at no cost to its owner. Both the Giveaway and upcoming auction are part of the *Best Friends Again* program, described on the web at www.bestfriendsagain.com.

“We received many very touching submissions to our contest,” said Lou Hawthorne, CEO of BioArts, “describing some truly amazing dogs. But Trakr’s story blew us away. His many remarkable capabilities were proven beyond all doubt in our nation’s darkest hour – and we view the work of cloning him as a great honor.”

Symington received the news of Trakr’s selection with emotion: “Trakr means the world to me,” said Symington, fighting tears, “To know that part of him is going to live on is just beyond words. It’s the greatest gift I’ve ever received.” Trakr, now 15, no longer has use of his back legs due to a degenerative neurological disorder, which experts say may be linked to exposure to toxic smoke at Ground Zero.

Within 30 days, BioArts will transport a sample of Trakr's DNA to the South Korean lab of their partner, the Sooam Biotech Research Foundation, the world's foremost experts in canine cloning. Trakr's clone could be in Symington's arms before the end of the year. "I can't imagine the joy I'll feel on that day," said Symington. "If the clone has Trakr's abilities, then of course we'll put him into service as a search and rescue dog – and I'll dust off my gear as well."

BioArts International has been granted the sole, worldwide license for the cloning of dogs, cats and endangered species. This exclusive license was granted by Start Licensing, Inc. and applies to the SCNT cloning patents developed at the Roslin Institute for Dolly the sheep, the first successfully cloned adult mammal.

For more information on the *Best Friends Again* auction or the *Golden Clone Giveaway* go to www.bestfriendsagain.com . For more information on BioArts International, go to www.bioarts.com .

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