



Girls next door



Photo Courtesy of E! Entertainment

Interview by Hilary O'Hagan & Photography by Chris Ameruso & E! Entertainment

Reality TV has transformed three blonde babes who are Hugh Hefner's paramours at the Playboy Mansion into global celebrities as well as pet ambassadors. "The Girls Next Door" on cable channel E! and on Channel 9 now in Australia is a hit and features the Pets' pets in their zany but loving lifestyle.

We saw this story in the departed 'Hollywood Dog' magazine, written by their former editor Hilary O'Hagan, a Kiwi journalist resident in New York who we tracked down. We also had to secure photos which we did from E! and the wonderful peterazzi Chris Ameruso whose wonderful work will feature in the next issue. You can see his work at www.chrisaphoto.com and also his own pet magazine PawPrint at www.pawprintmag.com.



The stars of E! TV's *The Girls Next Door* are far from living the simple life. Firstly, the platinum trio lives in a mansion and secondly, shares one man! And it's not just any mansion or any man. Holly Madison, Bridget Marquardt and Kendra Wilkinson take residence at the Playboy Mansion in Beverly Hills, and their boyfriend is Playboy magazine's founder, 80-year-old Hugh Hefner.

This may seem bizarre, but they swear it works and wouldn't have it any other way. Just to prove it, the girls regularly invite a television camera crew through the mansion gates and inside their bedrooms, giving the world an eyeful of their lives within Hugh Hefner's playground, where lavish parties and risqué photo shoots are commonplace.

Hef and his leading ladies share their home with nine dogs, including three rescues. There's also a zoo on the property housing monkeys, rabbits and exotic birds. Holly, Bridget and Kendra tell *The New York Dog Magazine* that between posing and partying, it's spending time with the animals, particularly their cherished hounds, that brings them joy on a daily basis, and helps them stay grounded.



Photo by Chris Ameruso (www.chrisaphoto.com)

Holly Madison

Holly is Hef's number-one girl. She has been living at the mansion the longest of the three girls and is the only one who shares a bedroom with Hef. Holly has two Pomeranians, Harlow and Panda, and two Chihuahuas, Duke and Duchess.

Do you share a special connection with one particular dog? It's hard to pick a favorite but Duchess was a rescue – she came from an abusive background so I have a soft spot for her. When I first got her she wouldn't let anybody near her. We rehabilitated her and now she's getting more and more friendly with people. She's made a lot of new friends and it's just amazing to see her grow.

Why did you choose a rescue dog? I got my two Pomeranians from pet stores and I had bad experiences. My first one was very sick. They kept the dogs in a small enclosure and she had all kinds of problems. She had kennel cough and her hair wouldn't grow for a while. I was constantly taking her to the vet. Friends of mine spotted my next dog. It was a nicer pet store that treated their dogs better – they took the dogs home at night and things like that. I was hesitant to get another pet store dog but two different friends came up to me and said: "You've got to see this dog," which was a black and white Pomeranian I later got and named Panda. At the time I thought, if I get another dog, it has to be a rescue.

How did you find Duchess? I was looking for a dog that was a little smaller than a Pomeranian. Chihuahuas weren't my favorite because I always saw them as kind of skinny (looking) but I found one and she was plump looking and sweet. That was Duchess.

What is special about being a dog owner? It adds a lot to your life and makes you responsible for something other than yourself. It's like having a little version of a kid.

Did you have dogs growing up? Yes, we had an Afghan named Ginger – she passed away when I was in third grade. We didn't have another dog until I was in high school. I had a cat and I was a cat person but my little brother wanted a dog so my family got an Irish Setter. I wasn't really excited about it – I didn't want a big slobbery dog, but I came home from work one day and this little baby Irish Setter melted my heart. Ever since then I've been a dog person.

How are you enjoying living at the Mansion? Living at the Mansion is fun. My favorite part is hanging out with Hef and getting to meet all the Playmates. My second favorite thing is our zoo. We have over 100 different species of birds and four different kinds of monkeys – it's great to be able to interact with those animals.

Does Hef like your dogs? He doesn't love it when he steps in dog poop but he loves the dogs (laughs).



BOWWOW

BLING

ID tags that make your pet sparkle

Get the latest trend for your best friend!

Spoil your pet with the the stunning new range of designer ID tags from Bow Wow Bling.

Choice of gold and silver tags in a range of sparkling designs and crystal colours

Gorgeous new laser engraved text that won't fade

Bow Wow Bling is now available at pet stores and vets across Australia. Find you nearest stockist at:

www.bowwowbling.com.au
or call 02 9369 2666 today!



Whose dog rules? Hef has two mixed-breed dogs, Archie and Little Foot, who were rescued. They've been here forever and are at least 10 years old apiece. All the dogs get along except for Archie – he's kind of the man of the house.

What is your favorite night of the week? Mondays and Tuesdays because on Mondays, Hef gets together with his friends and I take all the Playmates out for dinner. On Tuesdays, Hef takes all the girls out for dinner and I just love that. I love trying new restaurants and talking with all my friends.

What are you working on at the moment? We're getting into The Girls Next Door Season Three, which we start shooting last month. I'm also looking to produce my own show. I want to do something a little bit like America's Next Top Model, but a search for a Playmate.

Who is your style guru? I love Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly and Jean Harlow. They always would wear an outfit – no matter how formal or casual – and it would look sexy and classy.

Do you ever get tired of the party lifestyle? I love having balance in my life. I'm also studying business and French part time, and it is hard to balance everything. I love having days when I can party, days when I can go out with my friends and days when I can just keep it quiet and hang out with the animals.

How do you stay grounded? By remembering who I was before I came to the Mansion and focusing on other things, and that's where animals come in. They relieve a lot of stress because you're not thinking about yourself, you're thinking about their welfare, as well as having fun and staying in the moment.

Bridget Marquardt

Bridget was a cat person when she moved to the Playboy Mansion but that didn't last long. After seeing how cute the other girls' dogs were, she couldn't resist the urge to find a pup to call her own.

*Hef's in love with Wednesday.
As soon as I brought her home he was like,
"Aww, I think we've found Miss September."*



Photo by Chris Ameruso (www.chrisaphoto.com)

Tell me about your dog. Wednesday is a black Pekingese – she's almost all black with a little white stripe on her chest. She has a very large underbite that sticks out like a little gorilla. We call her baby Kong, like baby King Kong (laughs). Before I moved here (to the Mansion) I had a cat and my cat is nine years old. She's a black Persian called Gizmo. I was afraid to get a dog because she's been my only baby. At first it was awful – Gizzy didn't want anything to do with the puppy. But I've noticed they play little games together now, and they'll fall asleep in bed inches away from each other.

What does Hef think of Wednesday? Hef's in love with Wednesday. As soon as I brought her home he was like, "Aww, I think we've found Miss September."

Ahhh... Relaxing in the bath with a cocktail in hand...

squirt
fun stuff for dogs

....Give your dog that same pampered experience with the deliciously scented Squirt stuff for dogs! With a range to suit any dogs taste, from Pina Colada to Kahlua, you and your pet can step out in style!

WARNING: Do not bathe dogs while drinking cocktails!!!

The Squirt range includes stuff for puppies, dogs with sensitive skin or difficult and dry hair.

VCA

Discover more at www.vcaworld.com or email info@vetcompanies.com.au

Visit
www.vcaworld.com/samples
and receive
your **FREE** Squirt sample.

Quote samples code: UASQ0808

*They love being next to me.
They're both my best friends, I can tell them
anything and they'll never go and snitch.*

What have you learnt from your dog? So much! Dogs are a lot of work. You really need to be a disciplinarian. But I just don't know what I would do without Wednesday. She's like, unconditional love, always so happy and playful and even if you're down and out she'll come up and have her giant purple bear hanging out of her mouth and want to play. She knows when you're sad and comes and snuggles up next to you and gives you little licks on your hand – she's just so great. She really knows so much.

If you got another dog, would you consider a rescue? I have considered that but I don't think I'll get another dog just yet. I have rescued rabbits in the past. Over 90 rabbits were found one night in the park down the street. A lot had been hit by cars and the animal shelter came and picked up what they could. I went to the animal shelter, which had 13 of them – they were going to give them two days to be adopted before euthanising them. I bailed them all out and got them fixed. Then I asked Hef if they could come and live here. Now they're all in one big habitat where they can build warrens and cohabit with the birds.

Is it a good life for a dog at the mansion? I kid her sometimes and I say: "You're spoiled, you're spoiled, Winnie." And then some days I think: You're not spoiled, this is how every dog should live.

And how are you finding living there? Oh yeah, I'm spoiled. I know that I'm definitely spoilt.

Tell me about Hef. He's so kind and generous and a gentleman. He's very old fashioned and traditional. I like that.

Did you ever imagine you'd one day be living at the Mansion starring in your own TV show? Never. Since I was really little I wanted to be a Playmate, and I always wanted to be in the magazine. I came here pursuing that, never actually thinking about being a girlfriend or living here. And never even considering I'd be on a TV show. It all just kind of happened in my persistence of wanting to be in the magazine.

Is there ever any jealousy in the mansion? No not jealousy over Hef. We all came into the situation knowing that Holly's number one. She shares a room with him and the majority of the relationship is the two of them. Kendra and I know that, we're fine with that.

How do you deal with negative press? We definitely get it from people who don't approve of what we're doing and that's fine. I can get 100 positive emails but if I get one negative one it will ruin my week. But we get a lot of positive stuff, especially from females. We have a majority female fan base.

What's your favorite night of the week? Tuesday night. Hef takes us girls to dinner. It gives me a chance to sit down and talk to Hef – I see him every single day but sometimes you get so caught up in what you're doing, you don't get a chance to really sit down and talk about how your day was.

How do you stay grounded? I tell my sister and my Mom and two of my closest friends to keep me in check. If they see me changing, let me know, I want to know. I also go home to North Carolina. My parents live in the country and it's really far removed from here.

Did you have dogs growing up? We had dogs but they weren't inside dogs or your best buds – they were more like protection dogs. I feel like Wednesday is my little best friend. I love it when you go into places and people allow animals or bring their animals to work. I think it's good for people.

Kendra Wilkinson

When Kendra moved to the Playboy Mansion, she brought her two dogs with her – Martini, a Jack Russell Terrier and Rascal, a Welsh Corgi. She says caring for them is turning her into "great mom" material.

Tell me about your dogs. They represent different parts of my personality. Rascal's a little rascal – he's a character. Martini represents my tomboy side – she plays ball all the time and thinks she rules the house. She's very protective. Rascal's a huge Momma's boy. Right now I'm sick (with the flu), and he's lying right by me and he will not leave my side. Every time I'm feeling sick or crying he always licks me. He knows when I'm sad or sick.



PetTrack

www.pettrack.com.au

TRACK YOUR PET ANYWHERE,
ANYTIME WHEREVER THEY GO
Using GPS-GSM technology

- Reduce the emotional stress of losing your pet
- Track and locate your pet in a few minutes
- Completely harmless to your pet
- Peace of mind knowing your pet is safe
- Powered by Telstra Mobile Network
- User friendly
- SMS tracking
- Personal online tracking
- PetTrack call centre online tracking support



C O R T E C O
WHEREVER THEY GO



1300 720 920
info@pettrack.com.au

**See us September 12th and 13th at the PIAA Pet Expo trade fair
at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Sydney
booth number 142. Wholesale enquiries invited 1300 720 920**

What have you learned from your dogs? I've learned a lot of responsibility. When I have a kid, I already know I probably won't even care about myself – I'll care all about the kid. I love my dogs. I always make sure they're comfortable and fed well and very happy dogs. That's going to discipline me into a great mom I think. It's good discipline and it teaches you to care about something other than yourself.

What's your favorite thing to do with your dogs? When it's hot out, we go by the pool. They have their own backyard, a huge backyard, and I fill up a pool and they love being in the water. I used to take them down to the beach when I lived in San Diego – they loved body surfing and I'd kick the ball in the water.

Does Hef like your dogs? Hef thinks they're crazy but he loves them.

What's the best thing about having dogs? I love that they're so loving. They love being next to me. They're both my best friends, I can tell them anything and they'll never go and snitch. I don't cuddle anybody at night – Holly does – so they cuddle with me.

Tell me about your relationship with Hef? I love him. He can have something in common with all three of us. We're all different and that keeps him from getting bored. I'm the one who loves sports and rap. I'm the one who keeps him down to earth and young. I think we all do, but I'm the one who keeps him, like, really young. I'm the one who puts today into his life.

Do you ever argue with Holly and Bridget? Not really. We're very different. We each have our own lives, especially me – I'm a 100 percent pure tomboy. But we respect each other's boundaries.

Who's your style guru? Beyoncé and Janet Jackson. I love their songs; I love that they have meat on their bones – they're not skinny supermodels. I hate that. What's your favorite night of the week? Saturday – that's when we have fried chicken and ribs.

Did you ever imagine this would be your life? People ask me if this is a dream come true and I say no because this was never a dream. I never dream the impossible, but Hef gave me a reason to dream. He is the number one hero in my life. I don't dream big but he always makes little dreams of mine come true, like being on the NFL Network talking about football.

How do you stay grounded? Through my animals. When we went to Europe for two weeks, I started getting homesick, like, really dogsick!



Photo by Chris Ameruso (www.chrisaphoto.com)

WETNŌZ



Wetnoz Products – Pet products you can live with.

Luxury Pet Accessories



Metro Duo



"Big Pooch"
Elevated Dog Bowl Booster



Studio Duo



"Fat Cat" Luxury Cat Dish



"Tid Bits" Pet Treat Jar



"Big Pooch" Dog Bowl



"Pee Wee" Pet Bowl

redbone.com.au

wholesale enquires phone : 03 90174499