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University Of New Hampshire Alum Featured On National Geographic Reality Show "DogTown"

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DURHAM, N.H. - A University of New Hampshire graduate who spends his days working with man's best friends is appearing on this season's "DogTown", the National Geographic Channel reality show whose season premier featured pit bulls confiscated in the dog fighting scandal involving NFL quarterback Michael Vick.

Alumnus Michael Dix is the medical director for Best Friends Animal Society in southern Utah, where "DogTown" is filmed. The 33,000-acre facility has a no-kill philosophy and works to rehabilitate problem dogs and find homes for those that have been abandoned or are unwanted. As many as 1,500 dogs live at Best Friends at any one time.

Dix, a 1992 UNH graduate, attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and has studied veterinary acupuncture.

"Working at Best Friends Animal Society allows me to practice veterinary medicine with keeping the animal's interest in mind," Dix says. "I don't have to worry about an owner's willingness and/or ability to pay for services. Nor do I have to euthanize animals with fixable or potentially fixable problems."

Dix praises the National Geographic Channel for bringing attention to the work done at Best Friends and for shining a spotlight on the animal welfare movement.

"I hope the show will also bring to light some of the issues we are currently dealing with in animal welfare such as dog fighting, puppy mills, and hoarding situations," Dix says.

Twenty-two of the pit bulls confiscated from the property owned by the Atlanta Falcons' Michael Vick were sent to DogTown at Best Friends Animal Society. Four were featured in the series opener.

"At Best Friends I have the resources and time to fully workup an animal's medical needs, and the staff and caregivers to implement that treatment," Dix says. "I feel like I am giving something to the animal community and it also opens my eyes to what other people do for animals."

For more information on DogTown at Best Friends, go to <http://www.bestfriends.org/dogtown/index.cfm?csid=2759&csii=2760&csit=Set>.

To watch the show or get schedule dates go to
<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/dogtown>.

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http://www.unh.edu/news/cj_nr/2008/sept/jr11dogtown.cfm

