

News for a broader perspective



Every Dog Has Its Day

Cats have nine lives, but this dog has at least two. The canine cranium that marked the locale of a Doggie Diner, San Francisco's beloved former fast-food chain, was unleashed recently outside the Carousel Restaurant at the corner of Sloat Blvd. and 46th Ave., across from the San Francisco Zoo. The restoration of the enigmatically smiling dog head represents a dogged \$25,000 community effort to save the icon after it toppled during a windstorm and smashed its prodigious nose.

The icon's gleaming new appearance is a far cry from its faded countenance before the crash landing. Working from a mold provided by East Bay resident John Law, who owns several dog heads, Pete Misthos and Tom Bencish of the city's department of public works' paint shop recast the nose and brought the 9-ft. tall, 700-lb. head back to its original glory. They remained true to the original 1962 paint scheme of red, white and blue, determined through interviews with Harold Bachman, the symbol's original designer, and the Ocean Beach Historical Society. The old steel pole, corroded after years of exposure to salty air, was replaced by a galvanized pole. The head itself has been structurally balanced from the inside with brace supports.

The dachshund will remain at this location for the next two to three years. Then, if a lease isn't worked out with the Carousel Restaurant, the city may move the statue up a few blocks to city-owned property. For more information, call (415) 554-7926; Website: www.doggiediner.com.



— Louis M. Brill