

## **HYPERFLITE SKYHOUNDZ CANINE DISC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

*Challenges Make Success Sweeter for Two Unique Canines*

(ATLANTA, August 21, 2006) More than 100 of the top canines in the world have qualified to compete for the title of World Champion at the Hyperflite Skyhoundz World Canine Disc Championship on September 23-24, in Atlanta's Piedmont Park. Merely qualifying for the World Championship is a huge accomplishment for even the most gifted of canines. But two of the canines competing in this year's World Championship also faced additional challenges that make their stories even more compelling.

One of the canines, Maty, an animal shelter mutt belonging to Troy Kerstetter and Lynne Ouchida of Bend, Oregon, will be giving a "leg up" to the other competitors right from the start. That's because Maty is missing one of her hind legs. Despite her situation, "Maty fetches with the best of them," claims a proud Kerstetter. "Maty doesn't think that she is any different than the other dogs and we don't treat her any differently," Ouchida, adds. During Maty's non-disc dog days she is gainfully employed as the mascot for the Humane Society of Central Oregon.

Theresa Musi, of Kennesaw, Georgia, and her canine pal Ciela Azule, also qualified for the World Championship this year. But the challenges that Ciela faces are quite different from Maty's. In addition to her disc dog duties, Ciela is also Musi's service dog. Even while competing, Ciela must keep a watchful eye on Musi looking for the subtle signs, that only certain canines can detect, that warn of the onset of seizures. Musi, a veteran disc dog competitor, has suffered from epileptic seizures since she was four-years old. Before Ciela, Musi's world was always plagued by uncertainty. "I never knew when the seizures would come and that made it difficult to enjoy many activities," Musi laments. But with Ciela, things are very different. "What Ciela does for me," Musi says, "is give me enough time to be somewhere safe when the seizures hit – so I can workout, drive a car, hike or what ever I want to do without worry." "Because of Ciela," Musi adds, "I feel normal for the first time in my life."

You might think that stories like Maty's and Ciela's are rare, but in the world of canine disc sports, they are not at all uncommon. Hyperflite, co-founder, Jeff Perry, maintains that the Skyhoundz Canine Disc Competition Series was intended from day one to be as inclusive as possible. "With no impediments to participation and more than 100 contests in North America alone," Perry says, "we expect to be inspired as competitors, both human and canine, do their best to meet the challenges that life can offer."

For more information about the Hyperflite Skyhoundz World Canine Disc Championship, please visit the Hyperflite website at [www.hyperflite.com](http://www.hyperflite.com); or telephone Hyperflite at 404-350-9343; or contact Hyperflite via email at [info@hyperflite.com](mailto:info@hyperflite.com).

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