


# Animal Fair

Été 2003/Summer 2003



**Reel pets**  
By Jennifer Cattaul

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's  
**Dean Cain**



**Lois and Clark's leading man is a single father to son Christopher and three dogs Lady, Sasha and Bonkers. He tells us the best way to be a hero is to be a responsible parent and pet parent.**

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Dean Cain, who plays Clark Kent/Superman in the series *Lois and Clark*, has a simpler life than his superhero persona. A single father, Cain enjoys watching son Christopher, three years old, unnerve with his dog Lady, a yellow lab, Sasha, a Golden retriever, and Bonkers, a Bernese Mountain dog. He is concerned about the responsibilities of parenting - both people parenting and pet parenting, and he believes that they go hand in hand.

Cain is the spokesperson for Bayer Advantagen, Pet Parent Program, an information service for pet parents who want to stay informed of the latest medical research on pet health issues and how to best care for their pets. Dean knows how important it is to raise your child to care for animals and teach them to respect. He says, "When you raise a child, it's so important to teach the child how to be gentle to animals. You have to teach him that things hurt and how to be sweet and how to be gentle. My son is so gentle."

"Having three large dogs and an infant in one's household requires a lot of responsibility." I was very careful introducing the dogs to Cain. You have to monitor it very well. It's uncomfortable to watch - for a child to learn to pet a dog and to care for a dog. It's an incredible teaching tool for him. "Cain mentions even he taught his son something here - teaching the dogs just as Cain himself does - showing him the point that children pick up on the way adults treat others and replace their actions. Cain also grew up with pets - a dog named Leroy who died in a sad with heart. "One time my brother and I were surfing. All of the sudden we took over as there

was a hell between waves and there is Leroy paddling out to pass us!"

Cain is careful to be sure that everyone in his house stays healthy. "Being a father of a child, having dogs and being such an advocate for having pets at home, I have to take care of my dogs so I don't let my son get sick."

His dogs Lady, Sasha, and Bonkers ("I hesitate to say their names because I scared the kids a little") are outdoor dogs who enjoy romping in his 2-3/2 acre backyard in California. Cain says Lady is especially playful, getting his exercise by chasing her tennis ball. He has to use a plastic arm to pick up the tennis ball and throw it, as Cain admits, "It's so disappointing - she drops it in her water bowl and in the mud." Sasha, the Golden, just loves being held, but it is Bonkers - with whom Dean's son Christopher has the strongest relationship. "Bonkers will just lie on Christopher for all over time." Cain still misses Bonks, a Borderline mix who passed away at two years, four months old. "He was my soul mate. He was kind, protective, sweet, loving. He was my special dog."

Currently you are wondering how Cain (superhero, computer expert, good looking, animal lover) could possibly be single - without his heroic suit mate - without his Lois. He laughs, "I think my type is a woman who is an Italian greyhound. Graciosa, delicate featured and with skinny ankles. I have a thing about skinny ankles."

For more information about the Bayer Advantagen Pet Parent Program, go to [www.petparents.com](http://www.petparents.com).

58 [www.animalfair.com](http://www.animalfair.com)

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