



Leslie Granger, Bideawee CEO

# OFF THE LEASH *with* LESLIE

Un-fur-gettable anecdotes,  
adventures, and a-ha moments  
from a pet rescue pro!

## Introducing yourself can be challenging.

How do you summarize everything important about yourself, without seeming like you've got an ego the size of Jupiter? Like anything, they say proficiency comes with practice and knowing your audience. You might take a different approach meeting the Queen of England than introducing yourself to a roving gang of bikers (or, in my experience a barking gang of Rovers).

Say, for example, you're the box of kittens someone dropped on my doorstep last winter – upon meeting you, I might dispel with the usual "Hi, I'm Leslie Granger, President and CEO of Bideawee – come to me with your animal adoption needs" and instead go with the more conversational: "Oh my God! Phil, come quick – somebody left a bunch of kittens on our front porch!"

While I'd love to say that situations like these are rare, when people learn you work in animal welfare, they tend to treat you like their personal pet consultant. From inquiring about regulations regarding transporting a beloved dog's remains across state lines, to finding a new home for the cat who brought an end to the family's prize-winning Goldfish -- I believe the legal term is "Piscicide" -- experiences like this help engender new respect for the patience of that doctor you once met at a party, where all you could think to ask was if they had any advice for that stubborn rash on your shoulder.

Picture this: Katy Perry -- international pop icon. A few years ago, she decided to address that pet-sized void in her life and was searching for the Golden Doodle of her dreams! And she needs it "like, today." Watch as I work my butt off to try to make that adoption happen, even if the only result is a lovely voicemail I get to show off to my sons. (Who admitted I was cool for the entire hour, so this job isn't exactly without its perks.) I wouldn't say I mind consulting with the occasional celebrity on the ins and outs of animal welfare, but at a certain point, you have to cut out the middleman and address your audience directly. So, what better time for an introduction than the "tail" end of a column?

Hello again! I'm Leslie Granger, President and CEO of Bideawee, an animal welfare organization with three locations in Manhattan, Wantagh, and Westhampton. And we're not exactly new in town, with origins dating back to 1903, though I don't think I started until at least 1904... We offer services beyond your standard animal shelter and I look forward to sharing these with you. I'll be writing to you bi-weekly here at Dan's Papers, looking to entertain and educate in a light-hearted series. Here's hoping this column can be a source of insight for you, and a sort of pressure release for me – like talk therapy. And while over the coming months I plan to provide you dear readers with tons of animal facts, interviews, and a peek behind the scenes -- there's one piece of information I won't be sharing: My home address. Sorry box of adorable kittens.



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