

Interview With:

Dr Garth Fisher



Dr. Garth Fisher is a world renowned plastic surgeon who is based in California and has performed over 25000 cosmetic procedures. He brought the world of cosmetic surgery to the masses with his popular TV show 'Extreme Makeover'. He specializes in aesthetic/cosmetic plastic surgery of the face and breasts, as well as skin rejuvenation procedures and programmes. He is a keen animal lover and chats to K9 Magazine about his loyal and faithful companion, Rosco.

Tell us about your pets. Names, breeds and ages.

Rosco is a 4 ½ year old German Shepherd Dog, we've owned him for about 18 months and he's just the perfect dog. He's really so clever, his trainer recently said he picks things up in one month compared to what would be normally learnt within six months.

Rosco is also train in 'truth and protection' isn't he?

He is, in fact the last four dogs we've owned have all been trained to Schutzhund level 3. We've specifically brought dogs into our home that have lived with other kids and offer that family protection as well as great companionship.

When did your interest in pets/animals being and how long have you been a pet owner?

I've always owned dogs, the only time when I've not had a dog was when I was at college and living in a dorm, so the environment wasn't right but we've had dogs in the home since I was a kid.

I grew up with Schnauzers and have owned a Great Dane, a Boxer and Yorkshire Terriers. I'm a sucker for small dogs but they just wouldn't stay housetrained and in a house like mine, it was just too big to have the ongoing problem with that so I went back to larger dogs with the German Shepherds.

You're well known on our screens for your role on 'Extreme Makeover' what did the show do for you?

I really loved the show, I loved the way we were able to offer people something life-changing; from trainers to cosmetic dentistry and plastic surgery to even things like hair and make up.

I also think the show helped to debunk certain myths people might have had about cosmetic dentistry, because there's been so much mystery surrounding the industry and what we do.

Is there anyone you'd love to work with or what would be your ideal next TV step?

I would love to do an 'Extreme Makeover' for celebrities. There are a few things in the pipeline – so keep watching to see what happens!

For this question, we ask our celebs to match up the following people's personality to a breed of dog, for example, Winston Churchill = Bulldog or J.Lo = Afghan Hound, Frank Bruno = Boxer etc.

Katie Price – Well I know Katie, I'd say she's a cross between a Doberman and a Poodle.

Joan Rivers – Oh, I've got to say one of those hairless dogs – Chinese Crested.

Simon Cowell – Now, he's nothing like he comes across on TV so this is a tough one. He's not really like a Bulldog, he's better looking than that. I'd say maybe a German Shepherd because they're so smart and loyal or maybe some kind of Terrier because he knows what he wants and gets it.

Why do you prefer and why?

Big dogs or little dogs – I've always been a sucker for little dogs, but with my house finding a small dog would be like searching through Heathrow!

Pedigree dogs or x breeds – I've always gone for Pedigrees really but I love rescue dogs. I love the whole concept of a rescuing a dog and giving them a second chance. I've rescued animals in the past and they always repay you time and time again seeming so grateful that you took a chance on them through their loyalty and affection.

Days off or days at work – I love both. I need both really, if I'm at home too long I get the feeling there's things I can and should be doing.

Describe the last time you...

Tell your dog off – Never! He's the kind of dog you arrive home to and he'll tell you 'Betty's at the airport, she has 3 bags and needs your help'. He tells you what he needs and when and he's incredibly smart. He got 96% in his obedience test score and 96% in his protection test score. He is a perfect

family dog, he gets on well with our other animals and is great with the kids. He's honestly the perfect dog.

Laughed out loud because of your pet – I think it has to be a month ago. We were sitting in our bedroom talking about him being such a good boy and I swear there's a human inside him because he turned around almost knowing what we'd said and smiled a full on, proper smile...

Do you think some breeds, such as German Shepherds, which sometimes people have preconceived ideas about, could benefit from such media help?

I do think some breeds could do with PR help, to be honest I really see it as 'what's the person behind the dog like?' so I really think owners have to take responsibility.

I think sometimes dogs can have a really tough upbringing and I also think sometimes the media like to reflect their stories more in favour of one thing than the good aspects of dogs and the breeds in question.

Some dogs just get a bad rap, such as those that were involved in the Michael Vick case and there's so many of those dogs who have gone on to be great breed ambassadors.

In which one way do you believe dogs to be a superior life form to humans?

They definitely have better hearing and smell than humans but I also think they have great intuition and can almost feel situations before they happen – or before we as humans know.

I also think they have an incredible ability to forgive and sometimes we forget, because they can't show it, how much pain they can feel.

Tell us something not many people know about you.

Wow – there's probably so much but some people might not know that my father was a prisoner of war in Vietnam and didn't come back.

If you had the choice to arrange a dinner party taking three people (choosing from any era, past or present), who would you choose?

I'd have to invite Vince Lombardi, I think he's a great motivational guy, secondly I'd invite Neil Armstrong, the first man to land on the moon – I bet he'd have some great stories and finally I'd invite Benjamin Franklin to join us.

What is your current favourite...?

TV Show – American Idol. I don't think it will be the same when Simon leaves, I think he's around 60% of the show to be honest and people tune in to hear what he has to say but it'll be interesting to see what happens.

Book – Any current medical text book that can help me improve the lives of patients.

Album – Well I just saw the Eagles in concert and they were amazing, I also think Don Henley is great. If there's one person I would love to have seen live, it would have to be Michael Jackson.

If you could sum it up, what do you think is the best thing about owning a pet?

I think the best thing has to be their loving companionship. The security and protection they can offer your family, they're great for kids and if I'm honest I find people that don't love animals aren't quite as friendly or open as those who do.

Finish the following sentence: My Dog is...perfect. My dog is also human, I'm sure of it!

And finally, this is always a tough question and often requires a fair degree of thinking time but....If your dog(s) had the ability to speak and answer one question and one question only, what would you ask them and what do you think that they would say?

I'd have to ask Rosco what you need more than you have now in your life and I think he'd reply asking to come to work with me so we could spend more time together.

Many Thanks to Dr. Garth Fisher

Dr. Garth Fisher was speaking with Kim O'Meara