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Ken Hoffman

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SPECIAL SUNDAY MAIL DELIVERY

Readers tire of the DeGeneres dog saga

By KEN HOFFMAN

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You can now count me in that growing throng of "I like Ms. DeGeneres, but ... " My wife and I are retired and have previously been faithful watchers of her show. Since her self-serving breakdown, however, we are beginning to find other things on television. When we have watched the show, it has been with a newly found degree of cynicism.

Bill Homburg, *West Columbia*

I think it is sick the way they took that dog away. Then get all high and mighty over Ellen breaking the rules when they broke the rules in the first place by not having the dog fixed, not having Ellen fill out the proper forms, or doing a background check on her. Why? Because she's a celebrity? Then they have the nerve to say she should not get her way because she's famous! Mutts and Moms is in the wrong.

Jonathan Bosanac, *West Hollywood, Calif.*

Ken, you need to get a grip. Since your column was posted on Ellen's blog, I suggest you are the publicity hound riding Ellen's, ahem, tail. Ellen was obviously emotionally upset over this incident with Iggy and instead of going to the lunchroom or ladies room and crying or discussing it with her co-workers at, say, Nordstrom, she discussed it with the comrades in her profession — the audience. There is nothing but good intentions in both her actions and reactions. Intent is the issue here and what fans of Ellen's are reacting to is the severity of the punishment vs. the goodness of the intent.

If I read (memorized and remembered) the fine print on every contract I signed, I would have no time left to live life. I do not know the details of my cell phone contract and I have had nine of them.

Joanne Dunford, *Ontario, Canada*

Thank you for the position you've taken on Iggygate.

As a longtime fosterer of both cats and dogs, Iggygate smells like a wet dog on a bus. Let's cut through all the public drama and tears and ask ourselves a few questions. ...

Ellen had the dog 10 days? She didn't give the animal a chance. Introducing a new animal into a home takes more than 10 days. Surely her parents and teachers gave Ellen more than 10 days to get with the program when she was growing up! Let's all be thankful Iggy wasn't a child.

Ellen spent \$3,000 having Iggy altered and trained to get along with her cats? An animal's sutures are barely even healed after 10 days. [She expected Iggy to be trained after \\$3,000 and 10 days? Where's the trainer in this picture? Even Jim Burwell \(the local trainer I refer clients to\) doesn't charge that much. For \\$3,000, Jim Burwell would have my dogs trained to dance like the Rockettes.](#) Sister, you got ripped off. I could have had a herd of dogs altered and trained for \$3,000.

Ellen paid the vet extra to let Iggy sleep in a bed after surgery? "Paid extra" are the operative words here. She's trying to pay her way out of this. I let my fosters sleep in my bed for free. There's nothing like a 4-pound Chihuahua named Fifi draped across your face at night.

Ellen did what was immediately convenient for her. Allegedly, Iggy is not the first dog that Ellen has given away.

Ellen is full of lame-o excuses. The organizations I have fostered for over the past 15 years have many of the same stipulations. As a rule, I won't approve a dog or a cat being placed in a home with a child under 12.

Barbara Kelley, *Houston*

Amen, brother!

I could not escape coverage of this insipid story all last week and wanted to scream at the TV and radio:

"My God! Have we completely lost sight of what's important today? Have we forgotten

that Britney's child custody is in jeopardy and that Paris has a new perfume out?

Jay Hickman, *Houston*

I have two rescue dogs that are the love of my life, but my second one was not easy. Poor thing had such issues, then needed surgery and did not like my first dog. What should I have done, give it back?

No, you work hard and wait and work a bit more and wait. Then one day your new little one just melts your heart and you can't imagine life without him. Apparently Ellen can. Who knew she was so cold?

Tracy Ismert, *San Francisco*

Your article makes this seem as if Ellen single-handedly created this drama because she and the family would not obey the rules. But Moms and Mutts didn't think the rules applied to their agency, either. The rule I'm talking about regards repossession of property. The dog is property. This was a contract dispute over property that now involved a third party. They wrote the contract, they should know to enforce it, and you might need to take it up with the courts. Did the agency really believe I could enter someone's home to repossess property without permission? Don't the rules say you can't do that?

S. Brown, *Philadelphia*

Well said, Ken! And thanks for mentioning that the hairdresser had only needed to fill out the paperwork. I hadn't heard that part and it explains a lot about the shelter's motives. DeGeneres owes the shelter and its owners an apology.

Mark Allshouse, *York, Pa.*

As a rescue volunteer (Beagle Rescue of Southern Maryland) I can appreciate the hard (and often uphill) work of all rescues, and it angers me when some people think themselves above the law and above their own commitments.

Ewa Rurarz-Huygens, *Waldorf, Md.*

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