

HERD TONIGHT
Hosted by Fetch Barker

Cartoon Premise

By Billiam Coronel

HERD TONIGHT is an adult-themed animated show about the behind-the-scenes workings of an all animal talk show of the same name.

The show (within the show) is run totally BY animals, FOR animals. Each night its host, an in-recovery golden retriever named Fetch Barker, interviews the biggest stars the animal world has to offer. Or at least that's how the show is billed.

In reality they have trouble booking guests. Instead of sharing showbiz quips with the Aflac duck or Brian, the dog from FAMILY GUY, Fetch is forced to feign interest interviewing the chicken who crossed the road or a militant donkey advocating reparations for "40 Acres and a Mule." Other guests might include one of the dogs who was let out. Or Minnie Mouse's old boyfriend, Juan Pablo who's now shopping around a sex tape.

Although we will see on-air segments of HERD TONIGHT, much of the show will take place behind the scenes, showing the on-going passive aggressive dance between a frustrated Fetch, his writers, the staff, and the network. Fetch wants the show to book more impressive guests like Hedwig, the owl from HARRY POTTER or Jiggy from REAL HOUSEWIVES but there's a catch-22 - the Geico people are not about to let their gecko appear on a show where the other guest might be an owl who overcame bulimia.

FETCH BARKER

Fetch is a quick-witted golden retriever who was born to be a star. He appeared in a few movies and TV shows and caught the eyes of the Hollywood elite. There was soon discussions of his own talk show. He was set to become the Leno of the animal world! But then it happened - what has come to be known as simply, "The Incident." Fetch struggled with alcohol and sex addiction for years but he always managed to keep things under control. But not this night. He attended a large, star-studded Hollywood party and his vices got the better of him. He started humping the legs of movie stars and ended up "marking" Les Moonves in front of the entire party. The next day Fetch was dead in show biz. No one in Hollywood, human or animal, would hire him.

Fetch went into rehab and years later met a shady Italian chihuahua named Bones who took a liking to him. Bones called in some favors and pulled together financing for this show. He's getting a second chance! It's a low-rent situation all around but it's probably the only change to return to showbiz he'll ever get and he knows it. It's either make this work or go pull sleds in Alaska. So each night Fetch sucks it in, plasters on a fake smile

and does his best to keep his addictions in check. He's gonna climb back up the showbiz ladder. One long, insipid show at a time.

BUNT (FETCH'S SIDEKICK)

Bunt is a very large fat bear. He's a little slow on the uptake. He's always asking the other animals if they're done eating whatever they're eating so he can have the rest. He'll answer an obvious question by saying, "Do I go in the woods?" His recurring line on camera is, "Don't make me eat you."

BONES - SHOW PRODUCER

Bones is a fast-talking chihuahua with an Italian accent who clearly "knows some guys." They put up the financing for the show and expect it to be a success. (To Fetch) "The individuals whoz put up the money for this show would be disappointed to hear you express such pessimism, ca-pish?" Almost all the other animals tower over him but he's not intimidated: "You want me to come up there? I'll come up there, you keep talkin'." He occasionally lifts his leg to mark stuff around the office saying, "Mine."

CITCUS - FETCH'S AGENT

Citrus is an old hag of a cat who doesn't handle any good animals which is why Fetch is with her - she's the only agent he could get after "The Incident." This is also why she can't help the show with getting good guests. When she visits the show she occasionally tries to sign some of the sad animal guests to her client list.

THE WRITERS

The writing staff of HERD TONIGHT consists of 4 male white labradors and a female black cat named MOLLIE. Fetch: "We got lucky. Instead of having to hire a female AND a minority to fulfill our diversity quota, we only had to hire one."

POTENTIAL DISCUSSIONS IN THE WRITING ROOM

- Arguing whether the Pink Panther is gay or not. "He's pink!"
- The appeal of the human crotch. "As a cat, I don't get that."
- Discussion of whether Nature's Miracle cleaning solution is really a miracle or not.
- If other animals can use the word pussy or if it's just a cat thing.
- What animals they'd cross breed with. "My fantasy is a duck. I hear once you go quack, you never go back."

OFFICE STAFF

The office staff is a diverse collection of different animals. They all work together but, like any office, a lot of them don't like each other. There are a set of panda twins in the IT department, some squirrels in Accounting, and a blonde afghan at the reception desk. The office runner is an overweight ape who's always bumping into things and spilling coffee and knocking over side tables. There's also an ant-eater who finds

potential slights everywhere: “Why ask ME how many? What, I have a big nose so I'm good with numbers?” He hates the receptionist simply because she’s an Afghan.

POSSIBLE SHOW GUESTS

- The first sardine to be named fish of the day.
- A gerbil who knew Richard Gere and is now writing a tell-all book.
- A mouse suing GlaxoSmithKline because they gave him cancer.
- First penguin to get divorced (“Penguins mate for life but I couldn’t take the nagging.”)
- A canary who worked with the Chilean Coal miners.
- An atheist fox (who said there aren’t any atheists in fox holes?)
- A disgruntled dove from David Cooperfield’s act.
- The Kentucky Derby 4th place finisher.
- A turtle record holder for the Boston Marathon (2 years, 4 months, 3 days, 21 minutes, 19.223 seconds)
- A chicken advocating the UN arrest General Tso for war crimes (“More chickens die because of this man than any other military figure!”)
- Bubbles, Michael Jackson’s chimp. (All he can do is the “see no evil” gesture.)

ANIMALS WHO WILL NOT BE GUESTS (references for jokes)

Garfield, Snoopy, Woodstock, Geico’s gecko, Aflac Duck, Beethoven, Eddie from Frasier, Benji, Flipper, Lassie, Black Beauty, King Kong,, Morris the Cat, Spuds McKenzie, Taco Bell Chihuahua, Babe the pig, Gentle Ben, Old Yeller, Willy the free whale, Toto from Wizard of Oz, Flicka the horse, Mr. Ed, Rin Tin Tin, Trigger the horse, Seabiscuit, Smokey the Bear, Micky Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Goofy, Pluto, Donald Duck, Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, 3 Little Pigs, Big Bad Wolf, Felix the Cat, Tom and Jerry, Woody Woodpecker, Alvin and the Chipmunks, Yogi Bear, Boo Boo, Winnie the Pooh, Ren and Stimpy, Top Cat, Heckle and Jeckle, Underdog, Tweety Bird, Sylvester, Pink Panther, Scooby-Doo, Gary from Spongebob Squarepants, The Road Runner, Balto, Cheeta, Shamu, Bubbles, Bambi, Jonathan Livingston Seagull, Dolly the cloned sheep...

...you get the idea. The potential list for mocking is HUGE

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