

Amazing Animals



Dog

Helps

Cheetah

Escondido, California

Every star needs a posse to help calm them in front of fans. Majani the cheetah has Clifford the Labrador retriever mix. "Cheetahs are naturally skittish," says animal trainer Susie Ekard, who works with Majani to appear in presentations at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. "Clifford has helped turn the cheetah into a more relaxed cat."

It all started six years ago when Ekard was walking the leashed animals to an event. On the way, Majani spotted one of the park's large green trash cans...and froze. "He was like, 'That big green monster is going to eat me,'" Ekard says. Clifford, however, ran ahead, sniffing the can unafraid. "Must be OK," Majani may have thought, and resumed his trot. Since then, Clifford has accompanied Majani on all his gigs. Now the once fearful feline always acts like a cool cat.

—Aline Alexander Newman

I THINK MAJANI MAY BE MORE POPULAR THAN MILEY CYRUS.

