



*"There's just something about a dog." Captain Hann and Dusty, together in Iraq. Photo courtesy of Captain Hann.*



*Cookie is now stateside and is a loving mother to her pups. Photo courtesy S. Pierantoni.*

■ Cookie landed safely on US soil at 12:50 a.m. on August 2nd.

Her arrival was not a moment too soon—the next day she gave birth to seven healthy pups, or “Cookie Crumbs” as her friends affectionately call them. Several soldiers and their families have lined up to provide homes for the pups.

■ Private reached California in late August, and was reunited with some of his soldier buddies who were already back at Camp Pendleton.

■ Dusty has traveled through Iraq with a front line surgical unit. In addition to boosting the troop's morale, Dusty has also brought comfort to the patients they treat. Captain Hann, Dusty's caregiver related the following story to WSPA:

“There is something about a dog that can lift the heart, even if your body is broken down. One time, we were asked to treat an Iraqi family who had been in an automobile accident not far from the air base. Unfortunately, the mother and her young son died. The father was treated for cuts on his head. The two year-old girl was relatively uninjured, but terrified and traumatized with all that was taking place.

No matter what we did, we couldn't comfort that poor little girl—not until Dusty came on the scene. The girl saw Dusty and her face lit up and for a little while she helped her forget the tragedy in her young life. There's just something about a dog.”

Animal lovers in the US are trying to raise funds to send Dusty to the states. You can contribute by logging on to: [www.adopthomelesspaws.org/dusty.html](http://www.adopthomelesspaws.org/dusty.html)

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Patricia Fitzgerald of British Airways who covered Ratchet's expenses
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- Houston SPCA
- Joann Randall, a longtime friend to WSPA who covered all of Private's transportation costs
- All of the military personnel who have shown such extraordinary compassion for animals