



PUPPY BOWL “RUFFEREE” BIOGRAPHY

[Dan Schachner](#) is a television host and announcer celebrating his fifth year as the **PUPPY BOWL** “rufferee.” Riding high from the success of last year’s event, Dan is even more assured that he has the skills and stamina to officiate the biggest game in animal sports. Dan lives in Manhattan and has two boys, ages seven and nine, and a foster pup named Buster, who might just be PUPPY BOWL’s biggest fans. Below, find out all you need to know about the only human face in puppy football.

Name: Dan Schachner aka “The Ref”

Hometown: Oceanside, NY

How You Became “The Ref”: I’m a huge dog lover and have hosted shows for Animal Planet before. When I first found out Animal Planet was on the hunt for a new **PUPPY BOWL** ref, I knew my true calling in life had come. I submitted a ridiculously long audition video showcasing my puppy refereeing skills and a heartfelt campaign speech. There may have also been some begging - and I don't mean the dogs. Thankfully, they “bit” and now I’m calling the most important game of my life for the fifth year in a row!

Responsibilities of the Puppy Bowl Ref: My job is to make sure the puppies play a safe, clean game (the “clean” part is the hardest to regulate). I call puppy penalties, which can lead to expulsion if necessary, and I also call the touchdowns – just like any other football referee. And, of course, there are always puppy “messes” to clean up.

Favorite Penalties to Call: “Pancaking,” “Ineligible Retriever Downfield,” “Paws Interference,” “Illegal napping,” “Ruff-sides.”

Most Looking Forward to This Year: My new assistant – Stanley the Skunk!

Enjoy Most About Being the Ref: While nothing is better than being in the middle of a puppy-pile up, a close second is promoting the event. I'm like a Puppy Bowl ambassador, or better yet, the mascot. Think about it: human sports leagues have animal mascots, why shouldn't dog leagues have human mascots?

Why Did You Come Back for Another Year?: Two words: excessive cuteness. After the enormous success of last year's 11th Anniversary (aka PBXI), I honestly thought, “There's no way I'll ever top this. Time to hang up the whistle and retire.” Then I saw this year's starting lineup and my heart melted all over again. I immediately called my agent and said “I don't care if they're already in talks with people to replace me...Brad Pitt will just have to wait!”

Other Places to See (and Hear) Dan: Guest-starring roles on various TV shows including “The Mysteries of Laura,” announcer for “The Meredith Vieira Show,” the voice of Navy Federal Credit Union, Puff’s Tissues and WWE commercials, and promo announcer for Spike TV, Showtime and Sony’s Crackle TV network.

Interests: Officiating animal sports, sports trivia (human and non-human), voiceover work, running, cycling, pop culture, coaching little league, fostering dogs.