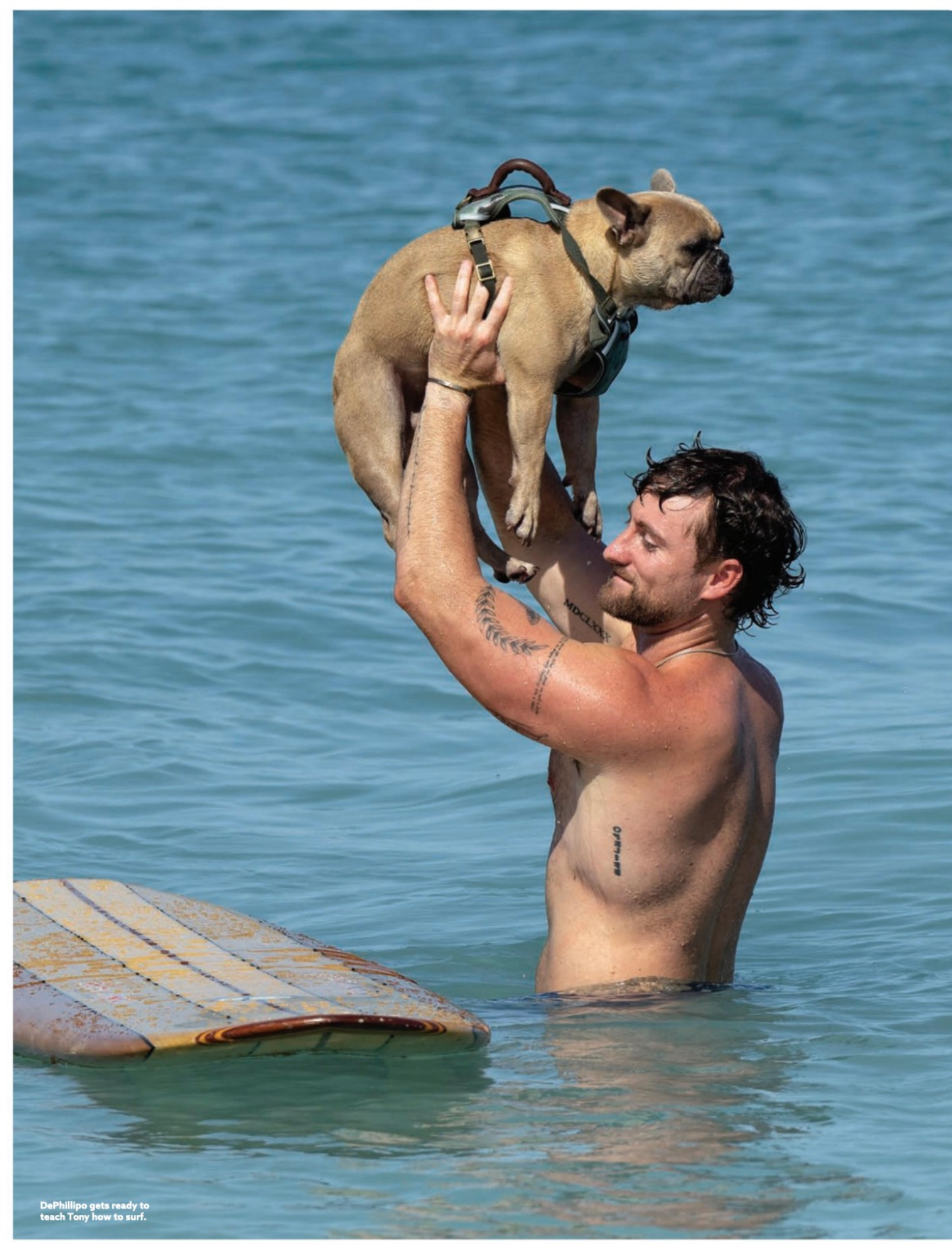


A man with dark hair and a beard is standing in the ocean, holding a small tan dog with a harness. The dog is looking out at the water. The man has a tattoo on his left arm. A surfboard is visible in the water to the left.

Hot Dawg!

These handsome dudes and their adorable dogs
are so ready for summer

By MICHELLE LEE RIBEIRO and TRACY MARCELLO | Photography by STEVEN MARTINE

JOHNNY and TONY

A year ago, fans of the *Bachelor* TV franchise watched Johnny DePhillipo fall in love and get engaged on *Bachelor in Paradise* (BIP) after bowing out of contention on *The Bachelorette* just a few months prior. It's no surprise the ladies loved him—he's laid-back, quietly confident, a little shy, and a whole lot of handsome. But by the time the BIP reunion aired in the fall, the engagement was over. As he struggled through a very public breakup, DePhillipo, now 26, managed to handle himself with poise, grace, and an impressive dose of emotional maturity, reflecting on the heartbreak as a learning experience.

"It was pretty awful, it was draining," he says of taping the BIP reunion show in November and dealing with everything that comes with your love life being aired on national television. "But honestly, I learned a lot from that relationship, and I feel like I'm all around a better person because of it. It taught me that you just need to walk away when there are red flags, or when you have a gut feeling about something. You have to have self-respect. I know what I want in a woman now, what I'll tolerate and won't tolerate. If you don't want to be in my life, then go."

Born in Scottsdale, Arizona, DePhillipo moved to southern New Jersey when he was 5, where he and his family lived in the coastal town of Margate City for the next decade. It was there that he developed his love of surfing, hitting the waves at a very young age. His parents—Elizabeth, a nurse, and John, a real estate agent—both surf, so it was a natural hobby for DePhillipo and his three brothers. "When I say it's a beach town, I mean everybody surfs," he says of Margate City. "We used to hang out at the surf shops and things like that."

When he was 14 or 15, his family planted roots in Palm Beach

Gardens, where he admits he went through a few rebellious teenage years. "I was a terrible kid, a problem child," he says. "I rebelled and was kicked out of a lot of schools." The private schools his parents first enrolled him in just weren't for him, and he ended up graduating from Dwyer while spending his free time surfing and playing team sports including hockey, lacrosse, and football.

He went to community college for two years and eventually earned an associate's degree from Palm Beach State College. He'd been working in the restaurant industry on and off since high school—bar-backing at Cucina and bartending and serving at local spots like The Woods, Hog Snappers, and Le Bar—and after college, he got both his insurance and real estate licenses, working in the fields with his brother in Scottsdale and his dad here in Florida. Eventually, though, he decided he wanted to be a paramedic, so he enrolled in school and was doing rounds at fire stations and hospitals in the area. But four months in, ABC came calling....

"I was at school and I got an email from someone at ABC, and I was like, what is this?" he recalls. "I thought it was a joke, like my friends were pranking me." Apparently, his friend Perry had secretly submitted him to be a contestant on *The Bachelorette* to help him get over a breakup. "I had been seeing someone for four to six months or so, and we had broken up and I was kind of bummed out about it," says DePhillipo. "My friends were over it and were like, this dude needs to perk up. So that's how it happened."

He decided to put paramedic school on hold and give it a shot, and in March 2022 he flew to Los Angeles to tape *The Bachelorette*, followed that summer by *Bachelor in Paradise*.

Taking off so suddenly meant leaving his new buddy, Tony, behind



keeps me busy too, putting shelves in his shower and little projects like that, and there's always a lot of eating whenever I'm there."

In May, he was off to Jersey to visit with his grandparents for a while. There was also the possibility he'd be heading back to the beach in Mexico to tape another season of *BIP* (which typically premieres in late August or early fall). At least, at press time, he said he wouldn't rule it out: "There's a chance you'll see me down there."

In the real world, he prefers to meet potential dates naturally. "I just like to meet people out, at restaurants, events, wherever," he says. "It's the best way." When he does meet someone who sparks his interest, he plays it a little cool and tries to get a vibe before making a move. "I feel like I'm shy, so I don't pursue very hard or aggressively," he says with a laugh. "I just say, 'Hi, I'm Johnny,' and if I feel a connection and am sensing she's into me too, then I shoot my shot and ask for her number. I'm not that intense."

He says he'd prefer to be more established with his career before considering engagement again, but if true love comes a-knockin', he'll open the door. "When I do find someone I want to be engaged to, I'll know," he says. "If I meet someone down-to-earth who's ready to rock with me, is a down-to-ride girl... If I found the right one and was head over heels, I would do it for sure."

But his main priority right now is getting his professional life on track. Come end of summer, he expects to be back in paramedic school in South Florida. "My mindset now is to get a career going, that's my focus," he says. "I don't want to get lost in the sauce, as they say, and in 10 years be like, what was I doing? I want to finish school and build a career here." —Michelle Lee Ribeiro

Follow Johnny on Instagram: @johnnydephillipo

Dog's Life: Tony

Endearing trait: "He snores—not very loud and, like, lying full out on his back. I don't know why, but it's kind of cute."

Favorite treat: Sweet potatoes and apples

Nickname: "I call him Little Man because he's like a grown man but he's little. He eats like one, he sleeps like one, he doesn't like to be annoyed when he's angry, and he's got beefy little forearms."

Favorite toy: "Right now, it's this Wiffle ball he keeps trying to fit in his mouth, but it's way too big for him."

Local hangout: The beach. "He loves the water."

Fun fact: "He's the smallest, but he's the pack leader of all the family dogs. It's the craziest thing ever. The two boxers play kind of aggressively, and one is 140 pounds, but Tony isn't afraid of him at all. None of the dogs will start their day until Tony does. He's the man."

for a bit. DePhillipo had just gotten the French bulldog about a month before he had to leave for the show. Luckily, he comes from a family of dog lovers, and Tony was able to stay with his parents (and the family's two boxers and Australian shepherd) in Palm Beach Gardens while he went off to pursue love.

Tony is actually DePhillipo's second Frenchie. He first had Kilo, but sadly lost him within a year. "The vet said he must have somehow drank contaminated water outside [dogs can be exposed to harmful substances in things like environmental pesticides, contaminated groundwater or rivers, and animal urine in puddles], and he ended up passing away from leptospirosis," he says.

But now there's Tony—who, fittingly, being part of the Italian DePhillipo family—was named after pasta. "We were eating pasta, and my dad just started calling him Rigatoni, so it was Tony," says DePhillipo. Tony loves going to the beach and swimming in the ocean (pretty much the perfect little buddy for a guy who loves to surf), and to DePhillipo, he's just the right mix of energy and chill. "They're small dogs but have the biggest personalities," he says of the breed. "They're up by 8 a.m. and energetic, they take naps, and they put themselves to bed by 10 o'clock, wherever they are. Their eyes get all heavy, and they start stumbling around. They're just cool, happy, loving dogs."

When he's not hitting the beach with Tony, DePhillipo really enjoys cooking a good meal at home, which he often posts video clips of on Tik Tok. It was his Italian grandparents who he says taught him his way around the kitchen. "I used to help them cook when I was super young, making pasta from scratch," he says. His favorite dish to make is homemade gnocchi.

He's incredibly close with his family, and he loves spending time with his grandparents in New Jersey whenever he can. "My grandfather loves to stay busy, he's always building something," DePhillipo says. "He





PHIL *and* TIGGER

Growing up in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains region, Phil Williams says sports and family were the focus of his childhood. The youngest of 11 children, he says his upbringing taught him several things about himself: He wanted a big family, a career in physical fitness, and a dog.

"We were all into playing sports," Williams, now 47, says of himself and his siblings. "I ran track, played football, and started martial arts when I was 3. The fitness background comes from me following behind my older siblings." At 18, he became a personal trainer, and today he owns a popular online and in-person workout business called PhilFit, which focuses on toning and training people of all skill levels.

Williams creates unique workout videos for his worldwide online subscriber base, leads group workouts at Real Fitness in Jupiter,

and meets elite clientele for home sessions, including celebrity clients like *The Bachelorette* reality show alum and Jupiter native Tyler Cameron. When Cameron was 13, his mother hired Williams to provide her sons with athletics training and mentorship—and Williams and Cameron have been good pals ever since. "We don't even call each other friends—he's my little brother," Williams says.

As for Tigger, Williams met his four-legged friend when he married Tigger's human, Amber Rose, in 2017. Rose had adopted the boxer mix in Homestead in 2013 after hearing his story of being hit by a car on the local news. During Tigger's recovery, he received two hip replacements and underwent aquatic rehab.

When Williams entered the family picture, he and Tigger quickly became best buds. "He follows me around a lot more than he follows my wife now," says Williams, who lives in Jupiter with Rose, Tigger, and their son, Antonio (Williams is also the father of four adult daughters from a previous relationship). "I think he's a guy's guy."

With Tigger's physical limitations at age 13, Williams keeps the fun simple with his buddy these days—the two like to play fetch in the backyard. Their bond has evolved over the years and will always be strong.

"Coming from a big family, I wanted to have my own big family, and Tigger is just another one of my kids," says Williams, who loved taking Tigger on long runs when he was a younger dog. "Watching him come from where he's been to now is amazing because you don't know how long a dog's life is going to last. We just want to give him the best life he can have while he's with us." —Tracy Marcello

Work out with Phil at home by downloading his fitness app at [philfit.app](#).

Dog's Life: Tigger

Top treat: Organic doggie biscuits

Favorite spot: "These days, he just likes to run around the backyard and not get too far from the house. He's become a homebody the older he gets."

Endearing quirk: "He shakes his tail when he's excited, which is every time I come in the house. Because his hips are artificial, his whole body moves with his tail. It looks like he's dancing!"

Must-have toy: "When my wife adopted him, he came home with a little orange ball—that's why she named him Tigger. He knows how to fetch that orange ball, but he doesn't like to give it up. He's like, 'I'll go get it, but you're not getting it back.'"

Most lovable trait: "When you rub his belly, he has this big smile and just goes crazy."

Williams and Tigger at Imagination Station in Jupiter's Indian Creek Park





Anders and Radar on the private yacht he works on



JOEL *and* RADAR

A life filled with adventure has been a goal for Joel Anders ever since he was a young boy fishing, camping, and snowboarding in southern Oregon. When he was in college, he lived in Australia for a spell, and upon graduating he decided that an industry that would allow him to continue to travel was a must. As it happened, he met a girl who was a chef on private yachts, and the seed was planted: He would work on boats.

He got his sea legs on a sailing school vessel in Baja, Mexico, learning the ropes as a low-paid volunteer. He used that tall ship experience as a springboard to land his first job on a private yacht in Southern California in 2009, and he's been sailing the seas ever since. He went from working as a deckhand on 150-footers to first officer on 100-plus-footers to captain on smaller vessels, traveling to places like Maine, the Pacific Northwest, the Bahamas, and Florida. When he got a mate's job on a yacht based in Palm Beach about a decade ago, he decided to stay.

Today, the 38-year-old is first mate on a 120 Trinity ABS-class yacht, and he also captains smaller boats and water taxis to Peanut

Island as a side gig. With a steady career based in the area, he decided to plant roots and buy a home near Lake Park in 2020. He also realized it was time to do something else he'd been wanting to do for a long time: get a dog.

"I was never really able to have a dog because I was always traveling around, and finally I could," he says. "I wanted an adventure dog." He heard about a dog that had been living on the streets in Arkansas, where the neighborhood was taking care of him. A rescue in Rhode Island eventually took him in, and Anders happened to be working on a boat in New England that summer, so he went to meet the dog. "As soon as I met him I was like, 'This is going to be my dog,'" he recalls.

The German shepherd-border collie mix was super friendly, full of energy, and had "big, goofy ears." He had already been named Radar, which seemed to suit him. "His name is really appropriate," says Anders. "His ears are always up—he's always alert and has a track on me. Plus, you know, working in an industry that uses radar..."

The new pals quickly bonded over a love of exploring, and Anders takes Radar everywhere—to alfresco dinners in the area, on hiking trips in places like Moab, Utah, and on day trips with friends on his boat. Now 3, Radar wasn't a natural old salt like his human dad though. "He used to be scared of water, but now we get halfway to Peanut Island on the boat and he's gone," Anders says of Radar's new obsession with swimming. "He has definitely acclimated to being a Florida water dog."

This summer, Anders is planning to buy a camper and "do the van life thing" for a bit, just him and Radar living their best lives. And there is no one else he'd rather have as a copilot. "He's a generational dog," he says of his buddy. "They say you're lucky to have one truly amazing dog in your life, and that's Radar. He has one of the best demeanors of any dog I've ever met."

—Michelle Lee Ribeiro

Follow Joel and Radar's adventures on Instagram: @andersphotographic and @radar_rad_

Dog's Life: Radar

Best talent: "He's really good at catching stuff in the air. Honestly, he's better than a lot of shortstops! He's also extremely fast—like 30 mph top speed."

Favorite spot at home: "The couch by the big window in the living room. He likes to keep an eye on the neighborhood."

Favorite treat: Starbucks Puppuccino

Cute quirk: "He's quite the leaner. If he likes someone, he really leans into them to the point where he's knocking them over."

Nickname: "Meatball is his number one—just because he's a big ball of meat. He's like 80 pounds. And I call him Radar Rad because he's rad."

Dream doggie trip: "I'd love to take him to Patagonia. He would be completely free and just be able to wander all over."



BRYAN *and* TATUM, KONA & SEBO

Bryan Meyer has his hands full—and not just with his three dogs. In fact, it was just a week after deciding to take in their third pup, Tatum, that Meyer and his wife found out they were also expecting their third child.

"We thought, we have two kids and two dogs already, but we're done having kids so this is a good opportunity," Meyer, 37, recalls of deciding to adopt German shepherd Tatum to help out a friend.

Meyer has had an extensive career in adult athletics. He was president of Villages Athletic Association and operations manager of Beaches Adult Soccer League, both in northeast Florida, but had to transition out of the roles after back-to-back soccer injuries kept him off the pitch for an extended time.

Now he is building a business that focuses on martial arts (he teaches Krav Maga at Harmony Martial Arts in Jupiter), children's rec soccer (he runs a youth soccer skills program for Jupiter United), and general wellness (he's a certified health coach and life coach). At Harmony, he aims to empower people with his self-defense classes, which can be organized for specific groups or schools by request. He also offers a free kids self-demonstration each year, in memory of Ryan Rogers, the 14-year-old Palm Beach Gardens resident who lost his life in November 2021 when he was attacked while riding his bike. "We want to help strengthen our community in any way we can," Meyer says.

One of Meyer's dogs, 1-year-old Tatum, comes from a sort of self-defense family himself—he's the offspring of canine parents who were bred to be personal protection dogs. But Tatum didn't inherit their alpha genes. "I call him Scooby because he's in no way a personal protection dog—he's just not aggressive at all," says Meyer. "He hides behind my other dogs."

The other two dogs in the Meyer household are 8-year-old Rottweiler mix Kona and 12-year-old pit bull

mix Sebo. While it can be rowdy at home with so many animals and kids running around, Meyer says having three dogs is a great tool for shaping his children into responsible adults. "I think it's important that my kids see the responsibility of owning animals and what goes into taking care of something else," says Meyer, who credits Sebo with bringing himself into adulthood. "He was my first responsibility. That was my maturity time—like, okay, I'm going to make sure I do the right thing."

Meyer also credits his trio of rescues with helping him and his wife foster a safe and nurturing home. "They wear their emotions on their sleeves, and they're always happy to see us when we come home," he says of his pets. "Breeding that type of loving environment... The dogs are just perfect for that." —*Tracy Marcello*

For sports and fitness training or health and wellness coaching inquiries, email Bryan at bryancmeyer@gmail.com. ❖

Dogs' Life: Kona, Tatum, and Sebo

Favorite activity: Hit the trails (Kona); bike rides (Tatum); car rides to anywhere (Sebo)

Comfort spot at home: In the dirt (Kona); in the kiddie pool (Tatum); at Bryan's feet (Sebo)

Top treat: Tuna (Kona); chicken (Sebo); hot dogs (Tatum)

Neat trick: "They're all very good with tricks. Sebo knows like 20—he can army-crawl and sing. Kona likes to join in as backup singer. They're all people pleasers."

Most lovable trait: "Sebo is a ride-or-die dog, truly man's best friend. He's always down to come along and do whatever."



Meyer with dogs (from left) Kona, Sebo, and Tatum at the Jupiter Lighthouse soccer field