

# Dog Tales Rescue: A sanctuary with style



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I've written previously about spoiling our dogs through design. Recently, I had the opportunity to see this rule played out in a very special facility.

Dog Tales Rescue in King City is a one of a kind, world-renowned animal and dog sanctuary.

As volunteers and animal lovers, Rob Scheinberg and Daniel Eden-Scheinberg were appalled that many rescue agencies weren't putting donations directly toward the animals.

That's why they created Dog Tales Rescue. They purchased farmland north of Toronto and got to work creating an oasis for dogs and horses (and cows, pigs, goats, sheep, and chickens!).

**Country club for animals.** The grounds look more like a well-manicured country club. There are paddocks for the horses, pens and fenced in areas for rescued livestock, dog parks, fountains and acres of room for running. Two stately, pris-

tine barns house over 70 horses and even more dogs.

**The dogs live in well-appointed rooms.** There are no concrete floors or bars on doors. So, when you walk in the barn you can see it's not a typical shelter or kennel.

Each glassed-in space looks like an upscale condo complete with tiled floors, art, crystal chandeliers and custom-designed furniture.

**Abuse isn't always visible.** Each dog, or a pair of dogs who are inseparable, have their own roomy space to start to heal.

As rescues, some arrive in fairly bad shape even when there are no physical symptoms. Therefore, any need to be rehabbed to live with other animals and of course, people.

The staff, including onsite vets, ensure every dog is assessed and a program for healing is put in place and followed. An army of volunteers helps ensure each dog is loved and cared for when they arrive.

**Doggy decor.** Each room is decorated to be fun and comfortable. The decor is designed for the dogs to feel cozy and visitors can see the animals are in a safe and friendly place.

The furniture is well-designed and brightly painted. It's adapted from



Jane Lockhart at the Dog Tales Rescue in King City, a one of a kind, world renowned animal and dog sanctuary that helps rescue dogs with their recovery.

dressers, settees, sideboards and antique beds.

Daniel designs the custom furniture pieces. Some include a cozy cubby where the dogs can climb into sleep or just tuck away if they're feeling overwhelmed.



At Dog Tales Rescue Sanctuary, the decor is designed for the dogs to feel cozy and so visitors can see the animals are in a safe and friendly place.

She found the inspiration for the sanctuary's decor while traveling the world to rescue abused, abandoned and stray dogs. So, common areas for dog socialization are posh looking, like luxury living rooms, every room has a special design touch.

The cafeteria for volunteers and staff features decor ideas from Europe, Africa and other parts of the world. The washrooms are gorgeous, very on trend.

These luxurious touches are everywhere, leaving you with a sense of awe at what we can do for our animal friends and how we can do it in style.

**Adoption day is every Sunday.** Adoption day is every Sunday and

it's open to the public, no appointment necessary.

If you can't make it to the facility, you can follow owners, Danielle and Rob, the staff, volunteers and all the animals on their new reality show, *Dog Tales!*

To learn more about the facility or to donate, go to Dog Tales Rescue and Sanctuary, or watch their new reality show, *Dog Tales Rescue*, Thursday nights at 8:30 p.m. on Gusto.

— Jane Lockhart is a celebrity designer, TV personality and leading expert in the world of design. Visit [www.janelockhart.com](http://www.janelockhart.com).

## In a well-staged home, details matter



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The trend of home staging has picked up momentum in recent years. As a Toronto interior stylist, I can certainly appreciate the basic principles behind a well-staged home, whether you're planning to stay or sell the place. Rule No. 1 is, you only have one chance to make a good first impression.

Here are some of my favourite styling tips to ensure you make a lasting impression, for all the right reasons.

Step one is to view your home from the street. What's the first thing you see? Bingo — the front door! This can be just the thing to invite guests in or send them running for the hills.

Choose a vibrant colour that sets your home apart from the rest, and ensure the hardware is bright and buffed. Finish the entry with colourful potted plants on either side, for the ultimate welcome.

Next, assess everything you see inside the home, from the walls



When planning where to place furnishings and accessories like art, look for the room's natural focal point, and focus attention to that.

and furnishings to the accessories, because even the seemingly minor details matter.

A neutral colour palette is easy to work with and has wide appeal. This

applies to your walls and furniture — particularly the big, expensive items that won't be frequently replaced. Then, incorporate colour through your accessories.

**TIP:** Artwork is a great way to incorporate colour without commitment. When planning where to place furnishings and accessories — like art — look for the room's natural focal point, and focus attention to that.

A focal point is a place for the eye to rest. This could be a fireplace, a window or an interesting architectural feature. If your room doesn't have one, make your own!

Stand in the doorway, look into the space and see where your eyes naturally land. This is most likely your room's focal point, and a good place to focus your furniture arrangement.

Now that you've identified the obvious attention-grabbers in your space, consider the background elements, such as lighting and flooring.

The most beautiful furnishings and artwork will be lost without proper lighting. A good lighting plan includes elements of ambient, task and accent lighting, layered at a variety of heights — floor, tabletop, sconce and ceiling.

Underfoot, stylists like myself use rugs to highlight, increase visual impact, or to create division and definition within an open-concept layout.

With that said, resist the urge to overuse rugs. They've certainly become a trendy piece, and are even appearing in layers, with one overlapping another.

Last now plan your accessories. Select only the pieces that make you smile, help tell your story, or inspire you in some way.

One of my go-to tricks is to arrange accessories in odd numbers. There's something visually pleasing about groupings of three or five. To add more interest, use books or stacked magazines to vary heights.

A beautifully styled space is a careful balance between the big, obvious pieces and the small, subtle details. If you walk into a room and something seems "off," explore the elements above and you'll likely find the missing link. When all the elements in a space work together, a room becomes "home."

— Toronto-based interior stylist Red Barrinuevo specializes in home staging and interior design services and is known for creating and enhancing stylish yet functional spaces. Visit [www.redesign4more.com](http://www.redesign4more.com).