

Angeleno

MODERN LUXURY™

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DEPARTMENTS CONTENTS

LOOK WHO'S TALKING Canine couturier Kim Rivera puts SoCal pups on the best-dressed list

184

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

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PUPPY LOVE: Kim Rivera with her Brussels Griffon, Roxy

DOGGIE STYLIST *Kim Rivera pioneered designer petwear in L.A.'s Fashion District. But can she convince the players at Fashion Week to put dogs on the catwalk?*

Canine couturier Kim Rivera does have limits when it comes to pooch coddling. She draws the line at personal chefs, doghouses custom-built to look like exact replicas of their owners' mansions and...well, that's pretty much it. Not that much restraint should be expected, of course, from the owner of Luxe Pet, the wholesale showroom in downtown's Fashion District that serves as the go-to supplier for buyers at super-chichi local boutiques like Puppies & Babies and The Modern Dog. The 2-year-old emporium represents more than a dozen four-legged designer brands, from Tarina Tarantino's bejeweled collars to the reconstructed-for-pups vintage rock Ts of Chi Wow Wow. Rivera, who was born in Michigan, had planned to attend UC Davis' prestigious veterinarian program, but

when her style fixation got the best of her, she made a last-minute switch to FIDM. Now she's busy evangelizing to the trendy end of the *Best In Show* realm, championing footwear for dogs ("It's so hygienic!") and reassuring customers that it really is OK to match your outfit to your mutt's ("Why not?"). What Rivera would really like to see, however, is some recognition from L.A. Fashion Week. "They're willing to do a denim day," she says. "So let's put dogs on the runway. I have no doubt that stars would walk their pets if it were done as a charity fundraiser." Still, far more pressing is her desire to bring to reality her favorite pet project. "My big idea—and I'd be totally OK if someone knocked it off—is a free mobile spay/neuter clinic that would go into impoverished areas." **A**

HOTS: Salsa dancing; swimming in the bio-luminescent bay at La Parguera in Puerto Rico; the black cod at Buddha's Belly on Beverly; finally getting an H&M in our 'hood; Coquito cocktails made from coconut milk and rum; '70s soul music; prefab housing **NOTS:** Air-kissing; control freaks; early sunsets due to daylight savings time; people who don't refill empty ice-cube trays; automated telephone answering systems; old homes with 'character,' which really just means 'termites and constant repairs'