

# Local dog proves a natural fit for ‘The Women’

**Norwich Bulletin**

*Posted Sep 13, 2008 @ 12:40 AM*

**Who:** Molly, a mix of miniature schnauzer and Yorkshire terrier, was selected to be featured in the movie “The Women.” Three-year-old Molly has multiple owners: Norm Barber and Patty Kovacs of Norwich, and a partial ownership by trainer Gleanna Doyle of Mystic. Molly is black, with a tuft of white fur on her chest, but her hair was streaked with highlights for the movie.

**About the movie:** “The Women” is fittingly titled — starring Annette Bening, Meg Ryan, Eva Mendes, Bette Midler, Debra Messing, Cloris Leachman, Debi Mazar, Candice Bergen and Carrie Fisher. Ryan’s unfaithful spouse rallies the bond of female friendship and rattles its core. The film is a remake of the 1939 George Cukor classic, which starred one of the most beloved silver screen dogs of all time: Toto of the “Wizard of Oz,” a Cairn terrier.

**Molly’s big break:** Barber already knew Doyle, whose golden retriever, Luke, is also in the movie. Doyle has worked on various movies, commercials and TV shows with dogs before. Doyle showed director Diane English a picture of Molly, who resembles the original Toto.

**Molly’s tenacity:** Molly is a fighter: She is the only survivor of a litter of puppies infected with the parvovirus. She is what Barber calls “green,” and Doyle had to train her to be in the film. And it was her terrier tenacity that made her a natural for the part. In the movie, one scene is a showdown between Molly and an uptown poodle, with much yipping. In another scene Molly jumps around a table laden with food, each take presenting another irresistible dish as if through the dog’s eyes.

— Sharma Howard