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DEAN KOONTZ BOOK TO BENEFIT OCEANSIDE NONPROFIT

A BIG LITTLE LIFE by Dean Koontz to raise funds for Canine Companions

OCEANSIDE, CA Everybody knows Dean Koontz. He is an enormously popular novelist with eleven #1 *New York Times* bestsellers to his credit. But do you know Trixie? She was the Koontz family's beloved golden retriever, and she had quite a following of her own. **A BIG LITTLE LIFE: A Memoir of a Joyful Dog** (August 25; \$24.99; Hardcover) is Dean Koontz's first ever nonfiction book and it chronicles the love shared between Dean, his wife Gerda, and their inimitable "Trix," and the life lessons learned from this unbelievable dog with a megawatt personality. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). *CCI is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.*

Trixie Koontz, or "Short Stuff" as Dean often called her, has a unique story. Dean and Gerda adopted Trixie after an injury retired her from her role as a CCI assistance dog. As a guest blogger on Dean's Web site, Trixie attracted her own loyal contingent, and went on to author three books. Her most recent book, *Bliss to You*, was a *New York Times* bestseller. Trixie passed away in 2007, and the Koontz family remains a major supporter of CCI. In fact, the campus in Oceanside, California, is named the Dean, Gerda & Trixie Koontz Campus. "Dean and Gerda Koontz are incredibly generous and compassionate souls who have donated over \$5.5 million dollars to CCI," explains Linda Valliant, Executive Director of CCI in the Southwest Region. "We are honored to have their names and that of their beloved Trixie forever linked to our campus."

The private life of Dean Koontz has never been the focus of his books—until now. **A BIG LITTLE LIFE** gives Koontz fans and dog-lovers a never-before-seen look into Dean's home and family life. He talks about his own past, the inspiration for his writing, his and Gerda's marriage and business partnership, and their life in southern California with Trixie. Dean's sense of humor is at its best as he describes his own habits and those of the people closest to him. He is also not afraid to get serious, imbuing the book with a deeper meaning by opening up about his personal beliefs.

In often humorous and always touching language, Dean describes Trixie as a little dog with a huge heart, one that inspired him in many ways. He weaves in stories about the golden retriever's uncanny ability to recognize good character, her adventurous nature, her love of practical jokes, how well she vlogged for the camera, and her stoicism. Trixie became a critic, writer, and entrepreneur and caused Dean to rethink everything he thought he knew about animal psychology. This heartwarming memoir makes it clear that Trixie's winsome and caring personality was contagious. She affected everyone—human and animal alike—who was lucky enough to cross her path.

For the Koontzes, Trixie was more than a pet. She was a teacher, a furry daughter, and a constant companion. Most of all, Dean says, Trixie restored a sense of wonder to his world. **A BIG LITTLE LIFE** is a powerful tribute to a beloved family member and will remind readers everywhere that the love of our canine best friends is a love that lasts a lifetime.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dean Koontz won an *Atlantic Monthly* fiction competition when he was a senior in college, and he's been writing ever since. He has sold more than 400,000,000 copies of his books, in 38 languages. Dean lives in southern California with his wife, Gerda, and their new dog, Anna.

A BIG LITTLE LIFE

By Dean Koontz

Hyperion Books

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About Canine Companions for Independence:

Canine Companions for Independence provides highly-trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities. Established in 1975, CCI now has five regional training centers across the country. CCI is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. For more information, visit www.cci.org or call 1-800-572-2275.

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