

# Monster Dog (a.k.a. Los Perros de la Muerta, The Bite, 1984) DVD

Starring Alice Cooper, Victoria Vera, Ricardo Palacios

Directed by Clyde Anderson (Claudio Fragasso)

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**"Boy, was that a piece of crap!"**  
**- Alice Cooper on *Monster Dog***



Say what you will about ol' Alice, but the man knows when to call a spade a spade. And he's pretty much on the money in regard to this Italian/Spanish/Puerto Rican-made werewolf picture, written and directed by **Claudio Fragasso** (who wrote **Hell of the Living Dead**, **Zombie 3**, **Troll 2** and other Eurotrash gallstones) and **Carlos Aured** (**Horror Rises from the Tomb**). But if you've really gotta see **Monster Dog** - if you're an Alice completist, or, I don't know, if you're like me and say to yourself, "I've avoided this movie for the last twenty years, I might as well get it over with now" - here's what's in store for you: a glum-looking Alice plays **Vincent Raven**, the "hottest rock star in the world" who returns to his home town to shoot his latest video. But his arrival couldn't have come at a worse time - there's a pack of wild dogs (played by a bunch of very confused and nervous mutts) tearing up whole families in town ("Five people? They said only two at the last roadblock." "Yeah, well, now there's three more!"), and a huge, flappy-jawed

dog monster lurking in the woods as well. But despite the abundance of evidence to the contrary, all the locals believe that Vincent is behind the killings, because his dad had a 'heart condition' that turned him into a bloodthirsty animal, and with the impeccable logic that all rural folks in movies possess, they assume like father, like son. So a quartet of hairy jamokes with guns shows up at Vince's house to put a silver bullet through his heart. Mr. Raven, of course, doesn't plan to take this backwoods justice lying down, so with shotgun in hand and in full makeup, he lights out for a showdown with the Andalusian hillbillies.

So there you go - *Monster Dog*. There's some gore (shotgun blast to the head, camera operator ripped apart by dogs), two forgettable Zipper Catches Skin-type tunes ("Identity Crises" and "See Me in the Mirror") from Alice/Vince, no nudity (despite the presence of some cute Spanish actresses), reams of marble-mouthed dubbing ("Oh, bullshit, Vince! The year 2000 is just around the corner. You're making records, videos and movies on high-tech electronic equipment of fantastic sophistication. You could get on an airplane tonight and be in Australia tomorrow, and you're scared of werewolves?!"), and for a brief moment,

Alice in makeup that looks more like Snuffalupagus than a werewolf. I'll leave it up to you to decide whether you've got 90 minutes in your life to devote to this, but if you do pass on Monster Dog, keep in mind that **Screaming Stoner Video** (yep, that's the name of the site) has this to say about you: "Only the most brain-dead could not appreciate this tributary Euroflick." You've been warned.

MVD's DVD image is full frame and VHS quality at best; the disc includes rudimentary bios on the cast, as well as a battery of trailers for direct-to-DVD titles like Mike Tristano's **Cannibal Taboo**, **Redemption High** (hey, is that Judge Reinhold?!), and documentaries, I guess, about techno music and breakdancing from the late and not-particularly-lamented Digital Entertainment Network.

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*-Paul Gaita*

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