



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2018

Media Contact: Liz Thomas
The Impetus Agency
Liz@theimpetusagency.com
775-322-4022

Celebrate National Therapy Animal Day April 30th

- *The annual observance recognizes therapy animals and their human companions for volunteering their time to bring comfort and healing to those in need -*

Bellevue, WA, (April 10, 2018) – Pet Partners, the nation’s leading organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions, is excited to announce the fourth annual **National Therapy Animal Day on April 30, 2018**. Pet Partners created the observance to recognize therapy animals, raise awareness about the role therapy animals play in enhancing the health and well-being of humans, and honor the thousands of dedicated handlers who volunteer their time and compassion during visits.

“These animals and their humans deserve recognition for all the hours they put in helping others with recovery, grief, stress and anxiety,” said Annie Peters, President and CEO of Pet Partners. “The health benefits of the human-animal bond have been scientifically proven for everything from healthy aging to mental health and wellness to child development. Therapy animals and visits help spread these benefits to the masses who otherwise might not have access to a pet.”

Pet Partners encourages people to show their support on social media by using their National Therapy Animal Day profile photo frame on Facebook and sharing photos and posts using the hashtag #NationalTherapyAnimalDay. Pet Partners teams are also taking part in [Treats & Sweets Day](#), a national bake sale during April that helps raise money for educating, screening, and registering thousands of therapy animal teams who make over three million life-enhancing visits each year. If you would like to donate or support the bake sale, please visit the link [here](#).

You can also work with your local mayor or city manager to have April 30 officially proclaimed National Therapy Animal Day with a sample proclamation [here](#). And you can contact your local media and suggest a good news story about the day with a sample letter to the editor [here](#).

Pet Partners registers more than just dogs, the Therapy Animal Program is also open to cats, horses, rabbits, pigs, llamas and alpacas, birds, guinea pigs, and even rats. There are recommended characteristics that help identify potential therapy animals, which include a friendly temperament, comfort with being touched, well-trained to follow basic commands, and enjoy attention and meeting new people.

Pet Partners registered therapy animal teams assist in their communities in a wide range of settings, making regular visits to hospitals, schools, businesses, and more. In addition to their regular visits, teams also conduct visits in special circumstances. For example, they visit with college students during finals and midterms, and spent time with victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

In addition to these visits, corporate partners can request Pet Partners registered therapy animal teams to visit with employees to support workplace well-being. Participating companies include Intel, Farmers Insurance, Aetna and many more. All companies that welcome therapy animals report positive feedback from employees. These sponsored visits are part of Pet Partners' Animal-Assisted Workplace Well-being program, a pioneering initiative to work with a company's human resource team to add the unique human-animal bond benefit of therapy animals to existing wellness programs.

Pet Partners has thousands of teams across the U.S. and is piloting programs internationally. To learn more about therapy animal team stories, visit www.petpartners.org. For more information on National Therapy Animal Day, please contact Liz Thomas at liz@theimpetusagency.com or 775-322-4022.

###

Pet Partners is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting animal-assisted therapy, activities, and education. More than forty years after the organization's inception, the science that proves these benefits has become indisputable. Today, Pet Partners is the nation's largest and most prestigious nonprofit registering handlers of multiple species as volunteer teams providing animal-assisted interventions. For more information about Pet Partners, visit www.petpartners.org