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## **Pet Industry Professionals Join the Pet Partners Board of Directors**

**Bellevue, WA, (June 17, 2017)** - Pet Partners, the nation's leading organization registering therapy animals for animal assisted interventions, is excited to welcome three new pet industry professionals to its board of directors.

- Marcie Whichard, Vice President, Industry and Public Affairs for Petco Animal Supplies, Inc.
- Julie Lawless, Senior Director of Corporate Affairs for Elanco Animal Health
- Cathy Enright, President and Chief Executive Officer of Pet Food Institute

"We are honored to have these accomplished women join our board and believe their experience and leadership will contribute immensely to Pet Partners' success," said Annie Peters, President and CEO of Pet Partners.

Marcie Whichard currently serves as Vice President of Industry and Public Affairs for Petco Animal Supplies, Inc. She is a seasoned professional with broad U.S. and global experience, including internal and external corporate communications, community outreach, crisis management and others but specializes in the areas of industry and public affairs such as branding, government affairs and issues management.

Julie Lawless currently serves as Senior Director of Corporate Affairs for Elanco Animal Health, a division of Eli Lilly and Company. In her role, she is responsible for the strategic direction and management of global corporate affairs professionals in corporate communications, corporate social responsibility, market access, scientific affairs, social/digital media, and government affairs.

Cathy Enright currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Pet Food Institute, the national trade association for U.S pet food and treat makers. She has extensive public and private sector experience in legislative, regulatory and public affairs and leads the pet food sector in this regard, at both federal and state levels.

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*Pet Partners is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting animal-assisted therapy, activities and education. Nearly forty years since 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](http://www.petpartners.org)*