



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Jamie Baxter | The Impetus Agency
jamie@theimpetusagency.com | 775-322-4022

Pet Partners Provides Financial Support to Therapy Animals with Cancer Thanks to Continued Funding from the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo

Bellevue, WA, (06.20.18) - Pet Partners, the nation's leading organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions, is excited to announce the continued existence of their Cancer Care Fund, helping therapy animals with cancer. Thanks to the generous support from the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo, the Cancer Care Fund will continue to assist therapy animals in need, having helped nine therapy animal teams so far this year, and 49 teams in total since its inception.

Funds help pay for a range of expenses associated with cancer including diagnostic procedures, chemotherapy or other direct forms of treatment, alternative cancer-related procedures, and end-of-life care or pain mitigation.

"Our Pet Partners therapy animal teams make more than three million life-enhancing visits per year and through our Cancer Care Fund, we're able to help enhance *their* lives while they deal with the devastating diagnosis of cancer. We're so grateful to the Petco Foundation and Blue Buffalo for their continued support," said Annie Peters, Pet Partners President and CEO.

Pet Partners therapy animal handler Cyndie Kieffer has been volunteering with the organization since 2002. She and her dog Jack make regular visits to local nursing homes and universities. Jack was diagnosed with cancer, but thanks to the Cancer Care Fund, she was able to lessen the financial burden associated with treating him.

"When Jack was diagnosed with cancer we were shocked," said Kieffer. "The fact that the Cancer Care Fund was available eased our minds knowing we could focus on getting him healthy. Jack is cancer-free and happily back volunteering."

"The Cancer Care Fund is a tremendous gift that we are fortunate to give to our hard-working, life-changing therapy teams," said Dr. Goodman, Pet Partners Consulting Veterinarian. "These teams have spent their lives bringing comfort, joy, and healing to so many – it is only right that we support our teams at this difficult time in their lives! Many thanks to Petco Foundation, Blue Buffalo, and Pet Partners for opening up their hearts to support and honor our therapy animals."

Therapy animals, such as those who participate in the Pet Partners Therapy Animal Program, provide affection and comfort to members of the public, typically in facility settings such as hospitals, assisted living, and

schools. These pets have a special aptitude for interacting with members of the public and enjoy doing so. Therapy animal handlers volunteer their time to visit with their animals in the community.

To learn more about the Cancer Care Fund please visit www.petpartners.org/cancer. Additional interviews and images available upon request.

-###-

About Pet Partners

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

About the Petco Foundation

At the Petco Foundation, we believe that every animal deserves to live its best life. Since 1999, we've invested more than \$200 million in lifesaving animal welfare work to make that happen. With our more than 4,000 animal welfare partners, we inspire and empower communities to make a difference by investing in adoption and medical care programs, spay/neuter services, pet cancer research, service and therapy animals, and numerous other lifesaving initiatives. Through our Think Adoption First program, we partner with Petco stores and animal welfare organizations across the country to increase pet adoptions. So far, we've helped more than 5.5 million pets find their new loving families, and we're just getting started. Visit petcofoundation.org to learn more about how you can get involved.