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Pet Partners Brings Therapy Animal Teams to National Military Family Association Operation Purple®



Bellevue, WA, (August 9, 2017) - Pet Partners, the nation's leading organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions, is excited to partner with the National Military Family Association (NMFA) to continue to incorporate animal-assisted therapy into their Operation Purple® Camps (OPC).

Operation Purple Camps are free week-long camps offered at various campsites across the country to military-connected kids and allow them to connect with other kids just like them. The color purple represents the mix of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine Corps red and Navy blue and in the military world symbolizes all who serve. OPC has served nearly 60,000 military kids since its inception in 2004.

"We are excited to have our therapy teams be part of the Operation Purple Camps to help kids with the challenges that come with being in a military family," said Annie Peters, CEO of Pet Partners. "By allowing the camp kids the opportunity to interact with our therapy animals we're exposing them to the benefits of human-animal bond including increased social interaction, reduced anxiety and depression and the release of oxytocin into the body, the 'feel good' hormone."

"Our camp provides kids a week of fun activities and resources that can help them overcome the stressors of military life," said Joyce Wessel Raezer, Executive Director of NMFA. "We are thrilled to have the participation of Pet Partners and provide kids with a nice strong dose of belly rub and ear scratch therapy."

There are nearly 20 camps across the nation that occur during different parts of the summer. Please visit www.militaryfamily.org/kids-operation-purple/camps/ for the 2017 camp locations.

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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 National Military Family Association

The National Military Family Association is the leading nonprofit dedicated to serving the families who stand behind the uniform. Since 1969, NMFA has worked to strengthen and protect millions of families through its advocacy and programs. They provide spouse scholarships, camps for military kids, and retreats for families reconnecting after deployment and for the families of the wounded, ill, or injured. NMFA serves the families of the currently serving, retired, wounded or fallen members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Commissioned Corps of the USPHS and NOAA. To get involved or to learn more, visit www.militaryfamily.org