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## **Pet Partners Applauds Aetna's Commitment to Supporting the Work of Therapy Animals**

(Bellevue, WA)- As part of Aetna's commitment to employee wellness, they've invited [Pet Partners](#) - the nation's leading organization registering therapy animal teams - to various Aetna locations to have therapy animal teams visit with Aetna employees. The visits not only provide stress reduction for Aetna employees, but also help raise awareness of the Pet Partners mission.

Aetna also served as the official sponsor of National Therapy Animal Day on April 30. Pet Partners created National Therapy Animal Day as a way to increase awareness on the important work of therapy animals across the country and celebrate their commitment to providing happier, healthier lives for people in their communities.

"It's fitting that as leaders in our respective fields we're working together," said Annie Peters, President and CEO of Pet Partners. "Organized therapy animal visits can be a unique component of a comprehensive employee wellness and benefits program, and the initial response from Aetna employees participating in these visits has been tremendous."

More than 2,000 employees have visited with Pet Partners [therapy animal teams](#) over the past few months throughout six Aetna locations - San Antonio, Texas; Portland, Oregon; Hartford, Connecticut; Walnut Creek, California; Omaha, Nebraska; and Downers Grove, Illinois.

Aetna employees have reported significant improvements following their visit:

- 99 percent of employees felt their mood had improved, including 45 percent who stated their mood significantly improved.
- 99 percent of employees felt more productive; including 55 percent who felt significantly more productive.

"Aetna shares Pet Partners' belief that animals and humans share such a special connection. We are so honored to join Pet Partners as they recognize all of the exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions to bring comfort and healing to those in need," says Kay Mooney, vice president and head of Employee Benefits for Aetna. "We have seen firsthand how therapy animals truly improve lives and lower stress."

Aetna will also sponsor the upcoming Pet Partners 2017 conference, *Professionalizing the Passion* to be held in Bellevue, Washington this September.

More information on the recently celebrated National Therapy Animal Day is available at <https://petpartners.org/act/national-therapy-animal-day>.

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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)*

*Aetna is one of the nation's leading diversified health care benefits companies, serving an estimated 44.9 million people with information and resources to help them make better informed decisions about their health care. Aetna offers a broad range of traditional, voluntary and consumer-directed health insurance products and related services, including medical, pharmacy, dental, behavioral health, group life and disability plans, and medical management capabilities, Medicaid health care management services, workers' compensation administrative services and health information technology products and services. Aetna's customers include employer groups, individuals, college students, part-time and hourly workers, health plans, health care providers, governmental units, government-sponsored plans, labor groups and expatriates. For more information, see [www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com) and learn about how Aetna is helping to build a healthier world. @AetnaNews*