



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World's Largest Pet Walk on September 29 Encourages People Across the Country to Enjoy Benefits of Being Active with Pets

- Founded by Pet Partners, this day-long celebration brings together people and their pets in effort to encourage physical activity -

Bellevue, WA, – Pet Partners, the nation's leading organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions, is excited to announce the first ever World's Largest Pet Walk, which will take place on Saturday, September 29, 2018. Thousands of people around the world will get out their walking shoes and grab their leashes for the inaugural celebration. World's Largest Pet Walk encourages everyone to enjoy the health benefits of being active with pets, and people are encouraged to get out and walk on their own or join up with a participating Pet Partners therapy animal group in their area.

While Pet Partners already has the Walk With Me™ program in which therapy animal teams coordinate walks with people in their community, World's Largest Pet Walk was created to encourage widespread participation with or without therapy animal teams across the world on one specific day.

“Research has shown just how important pets are to our health and well-being,” said Annie Peters, CEO and President of Pet Partners. “When we heard the [Surgeon General's Call to Action](#) about walking for better health, we knew pets could be a great motivator to drive widespread participation.”

According to a study conducted by the Human-Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) and Cohen Research Group, 97 percent of doctors reported there are health benefits from owning a pet and 75 percent of doctors saw overall improvement in health as a result of pet ownership.

“For those who have pets, that’s great and they are able to benefit from walking regularly with them. For those who do not, walking with a therapy animal can be a great source of stress relief and stimulus to lead a healthier lifestyle,” added Peters.

Participation is free and simple: grab your pet and go for a walk. People who plan to participate in this walking event are encouraged to make a pledge to walk [here](#). Whether it’s a walk down the street or a hike with friends, Pet Partners wants people to share their pledge along with photos on social media with the hashtag #WorldsLargestPetWalk. There is also a [downloadable event bib](#) for anyone planning to participate and commemorative event shirts are also available, with all proceeds benefitting Pet Partners.

For more information on the World’s Largest Pet Walk, please contact Jamie Baxter at jamie@theimpetusagency.com or visit www.petpartners.org/worlds-largest-pet-walk.

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About Pet Partners

Pet Partners is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting animal-assisted therapy, activities and education. More than 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. 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. For more information about Pet Partners, visit www.petpartners.org.