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Pet Partners Celebrates National Therapy Animal Day on April 30

Bellevue, Wash. – Pet Partners, the nation’s leading organization in registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions, is proud to announce its fifth annual **National Therapy Animal Day set for April 30, 2019**. The observance was created by Pet Partners to recognize and celebrate therapy animals, raise awareness of their role in enhancing human health and well-being, and honor the thousands of dedicated handlers around the world who volunteer their time and compassion during visits.

“Therapy animals and their human handlers help people of all ages experience the incredible benefits of the human-animal bond,” said Annie Peters, President and CEO of Pet Partners. “It is an honor to recognize our hardworking teams who bring these healing benefits to their communities and improve lives through the power of pets.”

Pet Partners encourages people to show their support on social media by using their National Therapy Animal Day profile photo frame on Facebook and joining the conversation using the hashtag #NationalTherapyAnimalDay. Supporters can also take part in [Treats & Sweets Day](#), a nationwide bake sale throughout April designed to raise money for educating, screening, and registering thousands of therapy animal teams who make over three million life-enhancing visits each year. Visit www.treatsandsweetsday.org to donate or become a participating baker.

In an effort to spread the word, Pet Partners encourages people to work with their mayor or city manager to have April 30 officially proclaimed National Therapy Animal Day using this [sample proclamation](#). The organization also invites individuals to contact their local media and suggest a good news story about the day, providing a sample [letter to the editor](#).

While a majority of Pet Partners therapy animals are dogs, the Therapy Animal Program is open to cats, horses, rabbits, pigs, llamas and alpacas, birds, guinea pigs, and even rats. There are recommended characteristics that help identify potential therapy animals, which include a calm

and friendly temperament, confidence, and the ability to follow basic commands. Animals should also enjoy receiving attention, being touched, and meeting new people.

Pet Partners registered therapy animal teams assist in their communities in a wide range of settings, making visits to hospitals, schools, businesses, and more. In addition to their regular visits, teams conduct visits under special circumstances. For example, they visit college students during finals and midterms, and spent time with people who lost their homes due to last year's wildfires.

Pet Partners has thousands of teams across the U.S. and is piloting programs internationally. To learn more about therapy animal team stories, visit www.petpartners.org. For more information on National Therapy Animal Day, please contact Liz Thomas at liz@theimpetusagency.com or 775-322-4022.

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Pet Partners, formerly known as the Delta Society, is the national leader in demonstrating and promoting the health and wellness benefits of animal-assisted therapy, activities, and education. Since the organization's inception in 1977, the science proving these benefits has become indisputable. With more than 13,000 registered teams making more than 3 million visits annually, Pet Partners serves as the nation's largest and most prestigious nonprofit registering handlers of multiple species as volunteer teams. Pet Partners teams visit with patients in recovery, people with intellectual disabilities, seniors living with Alzheimer's, students, veterans with PTSD, and those approaching end of life, improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond. With the recent release of its Standards of Practice for Animal-Assisted Interventions and international expansion, Pet Partners is globally recognized as the industry gold standard. For more information on Pet Partners, visit www.petpartners.org.