



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **World's Largest Pet Walk on September 28 Encourages People to Walk with Pets and Enjoy the Health Benefits of Being Active with Them**

*This day-long celebration helps individuals experience the important impact companion animals have on human health and well-being.*

**Bellevue, Wash.** – Pet Partners, the nation's leading organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions, is excited to announce its second annual World's Largest Pet Walk, set for Saturday, September 28, 2019. Thousands of people around the world will get out their walking shoes and grab their leashes for Pet Partners' signature walking event. World's Largest Pet Walk is for anyone who wants to celebrate the health benefits of being active with pets, while also supporting Pet Partners and their therapy animal program.

Participants are encouraged to get outside and walk on their own or join a participating Pet Partners therapy animal group in their area. While Pet Partners already has its Walk With Me™ initiative in which therapy animal teams coordinate walks with people in their community, World's Largest Pet Walk was created to encourage world-wide participation with or without therapy animal teams 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 as 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.

There is no registration fee to walk in the World’s Largest Pet Walk, but Pet Partners invites supporters to donate in honor of their participation through the organization’s online [fundraising portal](#). As a special thank you to those who fundraise, Pet Partners is offering [incentives for walkers and their pets](#).

Funds raised through the World’s Largest Pet Walk support Pet Partners’ Therapy Animal Program, which is made up of therapy animal teams who bring comfort and relief to members of the public, typically in facility settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, airports, and at employee wellness events. Pet Partners teams make more than three million visits per year, touching hearts and impacting lives around the world.

Whether it’s a walk down the street or a hike with friends, Pet Partners encourages people to share photos of their walk on social media using the hashtag #WorldsLargestPetWalk. There is also a [downloadable event bib](#) for anyone planning to participate.

For more information on the World’s Largest Pet Walk, please contact Jamie Baxter at [jamie@theimpetusagency.com](mailto:jamie@theimpetusagency.com) or visit [www.petpartners.org/wlpw](http://www.petpartners.org/wlpw).

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**Pet Partners** 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](http://www.petpartners.org).