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**DRAFT**

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## **Aubrey Fine, Ed.D. Joins Pet Partners' Board of Directors**

**Bellevue, Wash.** – Pet Partners, the nation's leading organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions (AAI), is proud to welcome Professor Emeritus of Education and Integrative Studies at [California State Polytechnic University](#) Aubrey Fine, Ed.D., to its Board of Directors.

“Dr. Fine has been a pioneer in the field of animal-assisted interventions and has played a key role in supporting and advancing the Pet Partners mission over the years,” said C. Annie Peters, President and CEO of Pet Partners. “After his time serving as chair of the Pet Partners Human-Animal Bond Advisory Board, we’re thrilled to now welcome him back as a board member.”

Pet Partners is the leader in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond, registering nine species of animals with their human handlers as therapy animal teams. Pet Partners teams make more than 3 million visits per year in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, and airports; the organization also deploys teams to provide animal-assisted crisis response after disasters and crisis events, and provides teams for corporate employee wellness events. Pet Partners also advocates for legislation that promotes human health and well-being through its grassroots advocacy program and educates legislators and the public about the positive impact of animal-assisted interventions.

Dr. Fine is a licensed psychologist with more than 40 years of experience specializing in treating children with ADHD, learning disabilities, developmental disorders, as well as parent/child relations. He is a leading expert in the field of human-animal interactions (HAI). Dr. Fine has been recognized by various organizations for his work with children, animals, and the community. These including the Wang Family Excellence Award for Distinguished Professor in California State University System (23 campuses), Educator of the Year-State for the CA Learning Disabilities Association, Who's Who in America, and the 2006 Cal Poly Faculty Award for Community Engagement.

He serves on numerous editorial review boards and has served as a peer reviewer for various child development and HAI-related journals. Dr. Fine has published 12 books and numerous

academic articles on various topics in the fields of animal therapy, children, and sports psychology.

Perhaps his best-known works are *The Handbook on Animal Assisted Therapy*, and his previous monthly column, "The Loving Bond," which appeared in *Dog Fancy* magazine.

He has also written several other books on human-animal interactions, including *Afternoons With Puppy*, *Our Faithful Companions*, and a children's book called *Give a Dog Your Heart*. Dr. Fine has been a guest on national TV and radio broadcasts, including ABC, CNN, Animal Planet, and Discovery Network.

"Over the years I have witnessed first-hand the tremendous impact of the human-animal bond and how these relationships cultivate quality of life," said Dr. Fine. "I feel at home on the Pet Partners board and I'm glad to be back in this role."

Dr. Aubrey Fine is a native of Montreal, Canada. He received his graduate degree from University of Cincinnati in 1982. Dr. Fine opened his practice in Claremont, CA in 1987.

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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 10,000 registered teams making more than 3 million visits annually, Pet Partners serves as the nation's most diverse and respected 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, people who have experienced crisis events, and those approaching end of life, with the goal of improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond. With the 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).