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Media contact: Jamie Baxter
The Impetus Agency
775-322-4022
jamie@theimpetusagency.com

Sarah Chambless 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 Sarah Ferguson Chambless, partner with the law firm of Fenwick & West LLP, to its Board of Directors.

“Sarah’s vast legal experience coupled with her passion for mentoring and elevating important social issues will be a great addition to the Pet Partners Board,” said C. Annie Peters, President and CEO of Pet Partners.

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.

At technology and life sciences firm Fenwick & West LLP based in Silicon Valley, Chambless advises emerging technology companies and the venture capital and strategic investors who fund and acquire them. She is based in the firm’s Santa Monica, CA office and practices in the corporate group. Her clients innovate across e-commerce and consumer products, software and big data, gaming, fintech, autonomous vehicles, medtech, and digital health. Within the tech industry, Chambless is passionate about mentoring female and BIPOC entrepreneurs, working on issues relating to women and BIPOC access to capital and cap table diversity initiatives. She has also advised nonprofits on a pro bono basis, including the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, where she served as outside General Counsel for five years. Prior to attending law school, Chambless was a corps member of Teach for America and taught elementary school in Compton, CA for three years. Chambless received her bachelor’s degree and juris doctorate from Emory University, and also has a master’s degree in elementary education from Loyola Marymount University.

“As a life-long dog and cat lover, I’m excited to bring my experience advising businesses of all types, including non-profits, to help advance the Pet Partners mission,” said Chambless.

Chambless also currently serves as the lap of choice to a geriatric ragdoll cat named Ashes, who is living his best life during COVID times, posing in Sarah’s lap during endless Zoom calls.

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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.