



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Pet Partners to Celebrate National Therapy Animal Day on April 30**

**Bellevue, WA** – Pet Partners, the nation’s leading organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions, announces the eighth annual **National Therapy Animal Day on April 30**. This special 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.

Pet Partners has thousands of registered therapy animal teams across the U.S. and in several other countries that make an impact in their communities in a wide variety of settings, including healthcare facilities of many types, senior living centers, facilities serving veterans, schools and universities, court and justice system facilities, and in response to crisis events. While a majority of Pet Partners therapy animals are dogs, the Therapy Animal Program is open to cats, equines, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, birds, miniature pigs, and llamas and alpacas. Therapy animals of all species play an important role in bringing the healing benefits of animals to their communities.

“Now more than ever, therapy animals are in high demand. As we slowly move beyond the pandemic, it is exciting to see our hardworking therapy animal teams so eager to return to visiting and continue their volunteerism with us,” said C. Annie Peters, President & CEO of Pet Partners. “Therapy animals and their human handlers help people of all ages experience the incredible benefits of the human-animal bond. From students facing challenging exams to people struggling in the wake of a crisis, our therapy animal teams leave a lasting impression on the lives of those they visit.”

In support of this observance, Pet Partners encourages people to work with their local elected officials to have April 30 officially proclaimed National Therapy Animal Day. These proclamations help educate public officials about the impact of therapy animals, which helps protect access for therapy animals at the facilities where they visit. Go to [bit.ly/NTAD2022](https://bit.ly/NTAD2022) to create a personalized proclamation request letter and send it to local officials.

People can also show support for National Therapy Animal Day on social media by following Pet Partners, sharing photos and stories, and joining the conversation using the hashtag #NationalTherapyAnimalDay. To learn more about Pet Partners and National Therapy Animal Day, visit [www.petpartners.org/ntad](http://www.petpartners.org/ntad).

### **About Pet Partners**

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 thousands of registered teams making millions of 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).

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