



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 19, 2022

Contact: Elisabeth Van Every, Pet Partners
425-679-5514 | press@petpartners.org

Pet Partners to Host Fifth Annual World's Largest Pet Walk on September 24, Encouraging Physical Activity for People and Pets

- Full-day celebration and signature fundraiser highlights the powerful impact pets have on human health and well-being. -

Bellevue, WA, – Pet Partners, the nation's leading nonprofit organization registering therapy animals for animal-assisted interventions, is excited to announce its 5th annual World's Largest Pet Walk presented by Wellness Pet Company, which takes place on Saturday, September 24, 2022. Pet Partners is inviting people around the world to get out their walking shoes, grab their leashes, and join the walk this year to help Pet Partners raise \$100,000. These vital funds help Pet Partners increase their community impact through therapy animal visitation. This event is for anyone who wants to enjoy the health benefits of being active with pets, while also fundraising to support Pet Partners and their Therapy Animal Program.

Those participating in the walk are encouraged to walk at any time and location on September 24. Whether participants gather with friends and family for a casual stroll around the block, lead a group walk in their community, or take a quiet hike with their animal, Pet Partners is excited for people to take steps with their pets. "Pets are not only good for our emotional well-being but can also be beneficial to our physical health as well, and this walk proves just that," said C. Annie Peters, President & CEO of Pet Partners. "Walking with your pet can have positive outcomes for both the pet and the pet parent, so participating in this event is a win-win!"

This year, we honor a very special Walk Champion posthumously: Carolyn Marr. Carolyn was a member of our Community Partner, Pet Partners of Greater Dallas. She believed in the healing benefits of animals and dedicated her life to that cause, passionately serving as a handler, team evaluator, and volunteer instructor for Pet Partners. During her many years of volunteer service Carolyn and her registered therapy animals visited thousands of people in need. Carolyn passed shortly after participating in last year's World's Largest Pet Walk, and was an avid supporter of this event and of Pet Partners for many years. We are all walking in her honor this September!

The walk is an excellent opportunity for employee engagement and corporate support, such as our presenting sponsor, Wellness Pet Company, as well as returning sponsors and walk teams Blue Shield of California, who will be supporting the event for a third consecutive year, and Dog Is Good for Good, who will be supporting for the second year in a row.

There is no registration fee to walk in the World's Largest Pet Walk, but Pet Partners encourages supporters to fundraise in honor of their participation. Those interested can visit petpartners.org/wlpw

to learn more, sign up, and create their online fundraising page. Pet Partners encourages participants to share photos of their walk on social media using the hashtag #WorldsLargestPetWalk. As a special thank you to those who fundraise, Pet Partners is offering incentives such as pet bandannas, commemorative T-shirts, and more.

Funds raised through the World's Largest Pet Walk support Pet Partners' Therapy Animal Program, which is made up of visiting therapy animal teams who bring comfort and joy to members of the public, typically in facility settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, airports, and at workplace well-being events. Pet Partners teams make millions of visits per year, touching lives and improving health around the world.

For more information on the World's Largest Pet Walk, please contact Elisabeth Van Every at press@petpartners.org or visit petpartners.org/wlpw.

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 petpartners.org.

###