



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS: Robin Pence | rpence@navc.com | M: +1.352.317.8651
Mary Tan | mary@whiskermedia.com | M: +1.612.209.3303

Local Dogs and People Joined in the World's Largest Pet Walk in Gainesville to Raise Money In Support of Therapy Animals Nationwide

B-Roll and SOTs included

ORLANDO, FL – SEPT. 27, 2024 – In Gainesville, a team of enthusiastic dogs and their animal-loving humans with the Orlando-based international nonprofit North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) laced up their shoes and grabbed their dogs and leashes to participate this week in the World's Largest Pet Walk. The annual event raises funds to support Pet Partners' Therapy Animal Program, which brings unconditional love, happiness, and healing to seniors, patients, veterans, and children in need. [Link to B-roll and SOTs.](#)

For the second year, NAVC staff – both human and canine – walked to support Pet Partners, a nonprofit whose volunteer registered therapy animal teams make millions of visits worldwide each year to schools, senior centers, libraries, hospitals, and more. The funds raised through the Walk allow Pet Partners to continue its mission of improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond.

This one-of-a-kind pet walk takes place throughout the month of September and provides the flexibility for participants to walk when and where they choose, **culminating in the annual nationwide World's Largest Pet Walk, which takes place this year on Saturday, September 28th.** To date, over \$100,000 has been raised globally, and donations can be made through the end of 2024 at worldslargestpetwalk.com.



Local NAVC staff and their dogs participate in the World's Largest Pet Walk

NAVC CEO Gene O'Neill, who participated in the NAVC's Orlando walk earlier this week said, "At the NAVC, animals are a big part of our lives, so much so that we bring them to work with us. Pet Partners' Therapy Animal Program brings love and comfort to millions of people around the country, so it's important and really a lot of fun for our employees here and all around the country to lace up their sneakers, grab their pets and join this walk."

About the NAVC

The North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and advancing veterinary professionals worldwide. As the world's leading provider of veterinary continuing education, the NAVC delivers essential training, tools and resources for veterinary professionals to stay abreast of advances in animal medicine and provide the best care for animals everywhere. Through its commitment to innovation and excellence, the NAVC has developed a diverse portfolio of products and services, including: educational events, headlined by VMX (Veterinary Meeting & Expo), the world's largest, most comprehensive continuing education conference and launchpad for new products and innovations within the veterinary industry; VetFolio.com, a robust digital platform for virtual learning and engagement; NAVC Media, the veterinary industry's largest and award-winning portfolio of trade publications; and Embrace, an advocacy arm which unites the veterinary community and pet lovers. The NAVC was founded in 1982 and is headquartered in Orlando, FL. Since 2017, the NAVC has been recognized annually as one of the Top Workplaces by the Orlando Sentinel. To learn more about the NAVC's products and brands, visit <https://navc.com/>. To see our schedule of upcoming events, visit <https://navc.com/calendar/>.

About Pet Partners

Pet Partners is the leader in the therapy animal field for registering volunteer teams. Since 1977, we have supported thousands of teams in making millions of meaningful visits across the

country and around the world. Through the human-animal bond, we can improve the physical, social, and emotional lives of both the people and animals involved. Pet Partners supports volunteer teams by offering the highest quality preparation, an unmatched approach to evaluation and registration—for nine different types of animals, and a focus on connections. We elevate the importance of therapy animal visits, and our teams help build a healthier and happier world for us all. Whether or not you have a pet, learn more about sharing the human-animal bond by visiting www.petpartners.org.

###