



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

OPEN HOUSE TO BE A "PAWS'ITIVE" PARTY FOR ALL *New Therapy Dog Program Launched to Help Children With Disabilities*

WHAT: The Paws'itive Animal Assisted Therapy (PAAT) Program has partnered with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's California Children Services (CCS) to initiate a new program which incorporates the use of therapy dogs to assist in physical and occupational therapy.

Children with disabilities from CCS' Escondido Medical Therapy Unit and their siblings and parents will participate in a therapy dog group activity to highlight the benefits of this new partnership. The open house will also feature service dog demonstrations, informational booths, refreshments and an opportunity to meet and pet the dogs.

WHO: Paws'itive Dog Therapy Team Members (human and canine)
CCS clients (ages 0-21) served at the Escondido Medical Therapy Unit and their families
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's California Children Services
Escondido Medical Therapy Unit Staff

WHEN: 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Thursday, May 10, 2007

WHERE: Nicolaysen Center School
Medical Therapy Unit, Buildings 10 & 11 (located behind the school)
420 North Falconer Road, Escondido, CA 92027

WHY: The California Children Services Medical Therapy Unit is a special program of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency that provides occupational and physical therapy for children with eligible conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy and spinal cord injuries.

The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of CCS's Medical Therapy Unit and the unique partnership they have created with the PAAT Program to bring important therapy services to their clients. The event will also be an opportunity for the community to learn more about these important programs and volunteer to be a "Paws'itive" team member. Members of the public are encouraged to call (760) 432-2296 for more information.

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