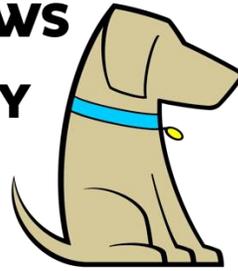




**PAWS  
OF  
CNY**



**Syracuse Regional Airport Authority**

## **Media Advisory**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

November 21, 2016

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### **Syracuse Hancock International Airport Doesn't want Travel to be Ruff**

**Syracuse, New York** –Syracuse Hancock International Airport is excited to announce that we have teamed with PAWS of CNY, Inc. to offer a Pet Therapy Program at the airport. The program, which is called the SYR Pets Easing Travelers (PET) Program is designed to help ease the stress of the traveling public and their loved ones. We will launch the program on November 22, 2016, just in time for the start of the busy holiday travel season.

Airport Pet Therapy Programs were established at San Jose Airport shortly after 9/11, the programs, which dispatch specially trained dogs and their owners to interact with passengers at every stage of the pre-flight process was designed to help provide stress relief. “We want to thank PAWS of CNY, Inc. for working with us to develop a pet therapy program for the airport,” said Christina R. Callahan, Executive Director. “What a great way to help ease any stress or anxiety our passenger may be experiencing.”

The therapy dogs and their handlers/owners will walk through the terminal, visiting with passengers that are awaiting flights. Our initial team includes three dogs; Bert, Diva and Flyer. All dogs are certified by PAWS of CNY, Inc. which ensures the dogs are tested for non-aggression, general obedience, temperament, and willingness to be hugged and petted in the midst of noisy and distracting airports.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Syracuse Hancock International Airport to bring our pet therapy services to travelers,” said Jessica Marabella, president of PAWS of CNY. “The goal of our organization is to bring warmth, comfort, and companionship to our community, and we are pleased to expand our services to include assistance to those feeling the stress of travel. It’s a perfect alignment and we look forward to a successful partnership with the Airport.”

There will be an event located post-security at 9:30am for passengers to meet our volunteers with their dogs and get a “doggie” treat!

The program will start with bi-weekly visits, times will vary depending on the day. For additional information on PAWS of CNY and Pet Therapy benefits, please visit [www.pawsofcny.org](http://www.pawsofcny.org)

If media would like to cover the event, please arrive at the airport no later than 8:45a.m. All individuals and equipment will have to go through TSA screening.