



Canine Companions for Independence rings NYSE Opening Bell on Thursday

Initial Puppy Offering (IPO) Introduced On Wall Street

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Canine Companions for Independence, a national non-profit organization that provides highly trained assistance dogs to children, adults and veterans with disabilities, has created their own IPO, an Initial Puppy Offering, to help meet the skyrocketing demand for assistance dogs. Thursday morning Canine Companions will be ringing the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange thanks to Procter and Gamble's Eukanuba Dog Foods. They're the "Angel Investor" for the IPO and doubled the impact of this IPO by matching shares dollar-for-dollar with a generous donation of \$100,000.

New York businessman, entrepreneur, and Canine Companions National Board Vice-Chair John Miller will help kick off the release of a limited supply of shares of "Not So Common Stock" to fund the next great class of Canine Companions assistance dogs.

Canine Companions Graduate Capt. James Van Thach (USA Ret.) of Queens, NY, will attend with his assistance dog Liz. James is a Purple Heart winner who was twice wounded while serving our country in Iraq. Also attending Thursday's ceremonies will be Eukanuba's Julie Franklin, Canine Companions representatives, assistance dogs and puppies. Also joining in the dog day fun is Snoopy, with Jean Schulz being a longtime Canine Companions supporter.

Canine Companions has also recently been honored by the Obama Administration with an invitation to participate in the Inaugural Day Parade on Jan. 21st.

Feeds of The Opening Bell and Closing Bell:

The Opening Bell (starting at 9:25 a.m.) feed is available via the following outlets: Ascent loop #4009 and by request via The Switch.

News media interested in covering events should contact the NYSE at: 212-656-2065.

For more information about Canine Companions and to arrange interviews, contact John Bentzinger: jbentzinger@cci.org or 516-330-6457

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About Canine Companions for Independence

Canine Companions for Independence is the largest non-profit provider of trained assistance dogs with five regional training centers across the country. Established in 1975, Canine Companions provides highly trained assistance dogs to children and adults with disabilities and is recognized worldwide for the excellence of its dogs, and quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people. There is no charge for the dog, its training and on-going follow-up services. For more information, visit cci.org or call 1-800-572-BARK.