



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Join Hand in Paw at its 19<sup>th</sup> annual signature auction, Picasso Pets.**

*Help people in need experience the power of Animal-Assisted Therapy*

**Birmingham, AL:** Hand in Paw will host its signature event, Picasso Pets Presented by Medical Properties Trust, on August 17th, 2019 at The Grand Bohemian Hotel in Mountain Brook Village. Picasso Pets is Hand in Paw's largest fundraiser and ensures that Animal-Assisted Therapy services can be delivered at no charge to nearly 100 facilities across North Central Alabama and Tuscaloosa.

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Picasso Pets Gala will feature a top-notch online silent auction, star therapy animals, craft beer, wine, and specialty cocktails, a delicious seated dinner, and a live auction hosted by Morgan Murphy. This year the spotlight is on presenters like Idie Hastings & Kim and Corbin Day, whose pets painted with local artists Arthur Price and Linda Ellen Price. Their final pieces will be revealed to guests at the event!

Picasso Pets was created to showcase not only Hand in Paw's love for animals, but to celebrate their amazing ability to help people heal and realize their potential. Funds raised enable Hand in Paw to carry out their mission to improve human health and well-being through Animal-Assisted Therapy.

Jackie Palmore, UAB Palliative Care Coordinator, explains the impact of Hand in Paw's services at their facility, "Animal-Assisted Therapy brings such joy to our patients and families during what can be and is a very difficult time for patients and families. It is an added layer of comfort. It is true "Therapy", not only for our patients and families but the staff as well."

Picasso Pets General Admission tickets are \$250; reserved tables are available through different sponsorship opportunities. The silent auction will utilize mobile bidding, and those interested in participating can begin bidding online as early as August 12.

**To purchase tickets and sponsorships, or to learn more about Picasso Pets, please visit**  
[www.picassopets.com](http://www.picassopets.com)

**Emcee:** Morgan Murphy • **Honorary Event Chairs:** Judge and Mrs. Scott Vowell • **Sponsorship Chairs:** Sheryl and Jon Kimerling • **Auctioneer:** C. King Benefit Auctions • **Face of Picasso Pets:** "Lucky" Trooper Yancey

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### ABOUT HAND IN PAW

With a mission to improve human health and well-being, Hand in Paw is Alabama's premier Animal-Assisted Therapy provider and a national leader in this growing field. Hand in Paw's professionally-trained volunteer handler and animal Therapy Teams help improve people's day to day lives in more than 100 medical centers, schools, and human service organizations throughout North Central Alabama and Tuscaloosa. Our volunteer teams make thousands of beneficial visits through community events and participating facilities each year. At no time has Hand in Paw charged for its services. For more information, visit [www.handinpaw.org](http://www.handinpaw.org).