

HAND IN PAW'S 24TH ANNUAL

PICASSO PETS

PAWS OF VALOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Picasso Pets 2025: A Superhero Celebration of Healing and Hope

Hand in Paw's 24th Annual Gala Set for August 23 at Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — May 8, 2025 — Hand in Paw is thrilled to announce its signature event, Picasso Pets 2025, presented by VP Funds, will take place on Saturday, August 23, from 6-10 p.m. at the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum. This year's theme, "Paws of Valor," honors the extraordinary impact of Animal-Assisted Therapy and the heroes, both two- and four-legged, who make it possible.

The evening kicks off with an exclusive VIP Experience from 5 to 6 p.m., featuring live music, hors d'oeuvres, top-shelf cocktails, champagne, and an early unveiling of the 2025 Picasso Pets paintings. VIP guests can also enjoy a self-guided tour of the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum.

At 6 p.m., doors open to all attendees for a night filled with interactive activities, including a themed photo booth, wine pull, and opportunities to meet Hand in Paw Therapy Teams. Guests can participate in silent and live auctions, bid on unique items such as luxury getaways and exclusive art pieces, and enjoy a seated dinner accompanied by a program highlighting Hand in Paw's mission and impact in the Birmingham and Tuscaloosa communities.

"Picasso Pets is more than a gala — it's a celebration of the healing connections we see every day between people and animals," said Hand in Paw Executive Director Margaret Stinnett. "It's an inspiring reminder of how our community comes together to support something truly meaningful."

The dress code for the evening is Superhero Chic, blending semi-formal attire with bold, heroic accents. Attendees are encouraged to incorporate elements like capes, masks, or metallic accessories to embrace the theme.

This year's Face of Picasso Pets is "Super Boo," a gentle giant and Hand in Paw Therapy Dog belonging to volunteers Dr. and Mrs. Joe Jolly. Super Boo embodies the spirit of courage and compassion that defines Hand in Paw's mission.

The 2025 Picasso Pets paintings, created by acclaimed local artists in collaboration with donors and their pets, will be on display throughout the event. This year's featured artists include Carol Carmichael, Linda Ellen Price, Dodi Jacobi, and Michael Swann.

Guests will also witness the Parade of Therapy Teams and the presentation of two special awards: the Tweety Lasker Award, honoring an outstanding Program Partner, and the Margaret Davis Volunteer Service Award, recognizing an exceptional Hand in Paw volunteer.

Picasso Pets is made possible by generous sponsors, including VP Funds, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Hot & Hot Fish Club, Cameron and Scott Vowell, Land Rover Birmingham, Kay Aldridge, John 3:16, Fi Plan Partners, the George W. Barber, Jr. Foundation, Medical Properties Trust, Poarch Creek Indians, Jennifer Buettner, UAB, Grain & Leaf Bottle Shop, Bham Now, and Over the Mountain Journal.

"We're incredibly grateful for the sponsors, artists, volunteers, and supporters who make Picasso Pets possible," Stinnett continued. "Their generosity ensures that we can continue bringing comfort and connection to people who need it most."

Tickets are \$250 for General Admission and \$350 for VIP. Tables can be reserved for \$3,000. Sponsorship opportunities are available starting at \$500. For more information on tickets and sponsorships, please visit picassopets.com.

For sponsorship inquiries, contact Margaret Stinnett at margaret@handinpaw.org or 205-322-5144 ext. 151. For press inquiries, contact Michael Hansen at michael@handinpaw.org or 205-322-5144 ext. 160.

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Hand in Paw is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to improve human health and well-being. Hand in Paw's professionally trained volunteer handler and animal Therapy Teams help improve people's day-to-day lives in several medical centers, schools, and human service organizations throughout North Central Alabama and Tuscaloosa. At no time has Hand in Paw charged for its services. www.handinpaw.org