MEMORANDUM ON PET PARTNER PROGRAM, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

THE ALKEK LIBRARY PROGRAM:

- The program will be held in a quiet corner of the library that is away from the main noise and traffic of the library that is cordoned off from the rest of the library by book shelves and low walls;
- The program will take place on 3 consecutive days (May 1-3) for only 2 hours each day;
- Two dogs and their handlers will be present for each 2 hour session and each dog will be on site for only those 2 hours so as to not tire out or become fatigued;
- Handlers will make sure dogs have had a chance to relieve themselves off-campus before the event. If they need to relieve themselves after the event, handlers will take them to a grassy area (off-campus if possible) and will clean up any fecal matter and dispose of it off-campus. Since 2 or 3 hours is not a long time for a dog to go without relieving itself, and because these dogs are highly trained, no problems in this area are anticipated, but we will be prepared;
- Library staff will also be present for the entire event

THE PET PARTNER ORGANIZATION:

- Pet Partners (the umbrella organization for Pawsitive Energy) requires dogs and handlers to undergo rigorous training in order to register and participate in the program with re-evaluation required every two years;
- Before becoming Pet Partners, dogs and handlers must also qualify for the American Kennel Club’s Good Canine Citizen certification: http://www.akc.org/dogowner/training/canine_good_citizen/index.cfm;
- Pawsitive Energy’s dogs and handlers are insured/bonded through Pet Partners CGLI insurance, with limits in the amount of $2,000,000 per occurrence. More insurance coverage information available from Pet Partner’s website;
- Each dog is up to date with shots and other care as required by Pet Partners;
- Each therapy dog is always accompanied by a trained handler who has experience with the individual dog and is well acquainted with the particular dog’s temperament;
- Pet Partner and therapy dog programs have met with great success in various situations and environments including children’s hospitals, retirement homes,
public libraries, and even law school libraries (also including the Perry Castaneda Library at UT Austin).