



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2023

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Pet Advocacy Network Statement on Santos Fraud Accusations Involving Pets

Statement from Pet Advocacy Network President and CEO Mike Bober:

“The responsible pet care community is outraged by recent media reports linking Representative George Santos (R-NY), an entity called ‘Friends of Pets United,’ and potential fraud involving pets and service animals. We are dedicated to helping Americans experience the many mental and physical health benefits of the human animal bond and condemn anyone who would seek to profit from people’s love of animals through deception. Bringing home a new pet, or making a donation to help care for animals, can be a highly emotional decision. But it is critical to do thorough research first and make sure any business or charity you support is legitimate. We urge the public to utilize resources such as akc.com and habitatititude.net to help decide if a certain kind of pet is right for them, and the Better Business Bureau or tax-exempt organization search tool on irs.gov to verify the legal status of a potential pet provider or donation recipient.”

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About Pet Advocacy Network

The [Pet Advocacy Network](http://petadvocacy.org) connects the experience and expertise of the responsible pet care community to lawmakers and governing bodies, advocating for legislative and regulatory priorities at the local, state, federal and international levels. Since 1971, the organization has worked to promote animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, foster environmental stewardship, and ensure access to healthy pets, including small animals, cats, dogs, fish, reptiles and birds. Our members include retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, wholesale distributors, manufacturers’ representatives, pet hobbyists, and other trade organizations.

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