



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JFK AIRPORT'S FIRST INDOOR PET RELIEF AREA OPENS AT TERMINAL 4**

**Queens, New York – April 27, 2016** – In an effort to meet the changing needs of travelers at John F. Kennedy International Airport's **Terminal 4**, JFKIAT - the management company which operates the terminal - has opened the airport's first indoor, post-security pet relief area.

In partnership with the Guide Dog Foundation - a guide and service dog school based in Smithtown, NY, JFKIAT created the nearly 70-square-foot pet area where passengers can relieve their guide and service dogs, emotional support animals and other traveling pets beyond the security checkpoint.

"Terminal 4 is committed to providing its passengers with a positive travel experience," said **Gert-Jan de Graaff, President and CEO of JFKIAT**. "We recognize the growing presence of animals in our terminal, and the significant increase in passengers traveling with pets, and we wanted to provide owners with a convenient location to relieve their animals without having to exit the terminal."

"The Guide Dog Foundation applauds JFKIAT for their dedicated efforts towards creating this new post-security pet relief area for passengers who travel with their guide or service dogs, enabling travelers to relieve their dogs without exiting security." says **Wells Jones, CEO of the Guide Dog Foundation**. "By working collaboratively, we are ensuring that people who travel with assistance dogs have a more enjoyable and less stressful travel experience."

Terminal 4 is home to 32 domestic and international airlines, and welcomes more than 60,000 passengers traveling through the terminal each day. As the premiere gateway to New York City, Terminal 4 strives to continuously enhance the passenger travel experience.

By August 2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation will require all air terminals which see more than 10,000 daily passengers to have a post-security pet relief area.



**From left to right:** Susana Cunha, Vice President of Operations, JFKIAT, William Krol of the Guide Dog Foundation, Karen Greis of America's VetDogs, Gert-Jan de Graaff, President and CEO of JFKIAT, Shawn Makinen, Vice President of Aviation Planning and Facility Management, JFKIAT, and Kim Stasheff, America's VetDogs

### **About JFKIAT**

JFKIAT, LLC is the operator of Terminal 4 at John F. Kennedy International Airport, one of the most active air terminals in the New York area, serving 32 international and domestic airlines with an annual passenger volume of more than 19.5 million travelers in 2015. With an expansion completed in 2014, passengers traveling through Terminal 4 can visit an outstanding selection of new and upgraded restaurants and bars, including world-class eateries, well-known casual dining, healthy options, and food-to-go. Terminal 4's expansive shopping mall offers an unparalleled shopping experience for travelers with a wide range of retail options from chic, upscale boutiques, to convenience stores, to electronics, accessories and gifts. Terminal 4 is the only air terminal in North America operated by a private management company. JFKIAT, LLC is owned by Schiphol USA Inc., a U.S. affiliate of Schiphol Group. Visit us at [www.jfkiat.com](http://www.jfkiat.com).

### **About the Guide Dog Foundation**

For 70 years, the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc., has trained and placed guide and service dogs to provide independence, enhanced mobility, and companionship to people who are blind, have low vision, or who have other special needs. The Guide Dog Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that relies on contributions from generous individuals, corporations, service clubs, and foundations to fund its mission to serve people with disabilities. It costs over \$50,000 to breed, raise, train, and place one assistance dog, but the Guide Dog Foundation provides its services completely free of charge to the individual.

The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind was the first assistance dog school in the United States to be accredited by both the International Guide Dog Federation and Assistance Dogs International.

To learn more or to donate, visit [www.GuideDog.org](http://www.GuideDog.org).

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