

## NEWS RELEASE:

**Monday 29 April 2019**

### **Introducing The Canine Crew – the UK’s first airport therapy dog team, brought to you by Therapet and Aberdeen International Airport**

Anxious flyers jetting off from Aberdeen International Airport will soon be able to have their fears allayed by a novel group of four legged volunteers.

The UK’s first ever team of airport therapy dogs will be visiting the terminal on a regular basis from Saturday 4 May

The Canine Crew, easily identifiable in their high vis jackets and bandanas, will mingle with passengers and staff to work their animal magic both landside and airside throughout the terminal.

Already regular visitors to nursing homes, schools, prisons and universities, where the dogs have been proven to help improve mental health and wellbeing, alleviate stress and calm nerves, this is the first venture of this scale in the UK to bring the dogs to an airport environment.

Therapet in the Aberdeenshire area is managed by Canine Concern Scotland Trust and will deploy a team of dogs, of various sizes, with their handlers on a rota basis.

Trustee of the charity and area representative for Aberdeenshire North Therapet, Diane Wood, explained: “We are delighted to take the lead in this project and have the opportunity to work with Aberdeen International Airport.

“All our dogs – and their owners – have undergone rigorous training and assessment to work in a variety of environments and the dogs are used to being stroked and petted and generally made a fuss of so they will lap up the attention and thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to interact with passengers and staff.

“The mere action of stroking a dog slows down the heartbeat and reduces blood pressure so they will be a great help to anyone feeling nervous about their journey. The dogs will work in pairs, for two hours at a time once a week and we plan to keep everybody updated about what dogs are visiting and when.”

The Canine Crew visiting the airport will initially comprise:

- Breagh the Golden Retriever with owner Diane Wood
- Bruno the German Shepherd with owner Fiona Watts
- Grace the Scottish Deerhound with owners Bill and Carole Ledingham
- Enzo the Red Labrador with owner Clair Petrie
- Noodle the Beagle with owner Amy McKenzie
- Tweedie Bear the German Shepherd Dog with owner Julie Duguid
- Zosha/Vinnie the Leonberger with owner Kelly Wiseman
- Cullen the Beagle with owner Emma Ritchie
- Bronte the Golden retriever with owner Jacqui Finnie



- Pax the Utonagan with owner Paul Higgins
- Shuna the Lurcher with owner Morag Forrest
- Bentley the Golden Retriever with owner Colin Finnie
- Luna the Collie with owner Karen Douglas
- Doug the Pug with owners Kate and Sean Broadley

Aberdeen International Airport Duty Manager Fraser Bain said: “We’re excited to be the first airport in the UK to offer this service to passengers. As well as benefitting our visitors, we also recognise the benefit to the mental health and wellbeing of our staff.

“The Canine Crew is made up of a variety of dogs, with a mixture of brilliant traits and personalities and we cannot wait to see the reaction of our passengers.”

For more information and Canine Crew schedules, visit [www.aberdeenairport.com/therapet](http://www.aberdeenairport.com/therapet)

## Ends

### Notes to editors

Canine Concern Scotland Trust inc. Therapet was formed in 1988 to help dogs and their owners, and to improve their position in present-day society. Potential Therapets must be at least one year old but there is no upper age limit. They must have been owned for at least six months. Therapets can be either pedigree or cross-breeds. The Therapet service only operates in Scotland.

### About Aberdeen International Airport

Aberdeen International Airport is owned by AGS Airports Limited. AGS Airports is a partnership between Ferrovial and Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets (MIRA) established in 2014 to invest in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Southampton airports.

Aberdeen International Airport is the north-east of Scotland’s major transport hub and is a vital economic driver for the region, contributing more than £110 million a year to the local economy. It is the gateway to Europe’s energy capital and Europe’s busiest commercial heliport.

Approximately 250 people are directly employed by Aberdeen International Airport. However, it supports 3,400 jobs across the north-east. It is currently home to 20 airlines serving more than 40 destinations worldwide. In addition to one passenger terminal, the airport comprises four helicopter terminals.

Aberdeen International Airport is currently investing in a comprehensive transformation of the passenger facilities. This three year project will deliver a 50% increase in the size of the terminal. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2017 and included new domestic and international arrival areas and passenger lounges. The second phase opened on 19 June 2018 with new security search area and retail facilities. The third and final phase of the project which involves expanding our airside area and increasing the number of shops and restaurants is expected to be complete by autumn 2019.

**For further information please contact:**



# Aberdeen International Airport

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