



SAT Unleashes Pups and Planes Program

Visitors to the airport are now being greeted by a new breed of volunteers as San Antonio International (SAT) introduces new Pups and Planes program today. The Pups and Planes program aims to de-stress passengers, bring comfort and happiness and assist visitors as they navigate through SAT.

As one of the few such programs in the United States and the first of its kind in Texas, Airport officials launched the program in anticipation of the upcoming busy holiday travel season. "Traveling can sometimes create stress and anxiety so the Pups and Planes program is a great opportunity to improve and enhance the customer's experience," said Aviation Director Frank Miller. "These furry, four-legged volunteers are a great addition to our airport customer service team."

San Antonio International is partnering with Therapy Dogs, Inc and Delta Pet Partners of San Antonio on the Pups and Planes program. "Therapy Dogs Inc. is happy to be a part of the SAT program. It's an additional venue for our teams to reach out further into the community, said Therapy Dogs Executive Director Billie Smith. "Our objective is to form a network of caring individuals who are willing to share their special animals in order to bring happiness and cheer to people, young and old alike." Volunteers and their pups will roam through the terminals and visit with passengers awaiting flights. Each dog was tested and registered to be part of the Pups and Planes program. "It has been documented that pets have a very calming effect on many people. It cheers people up, takes away anxious feelings," said Miguelita Scanio with Delta Pet Partners. "People who love dogs will greatly appreciate this service."

Pups and Planes is part of the airport's Ambassador Program and volunteers and their pups will work as teams on rotating schedules. Pups include: QT the Golden Retriever, Saxon the Pug, Travis the Doberman Pinscher, Gracie the West Highland white terrier and Whiskers and Buddy, mix breed pups. Currently there are 5 pups in the program with more to come. The pups will be easily identifiable with a blue kerchief around their neck

This week's schedule for the pups and handlers is:

Monday, October 14th

10:00am-11:30am and 1:00pm-2:30pm

Wednesday, October 16th

10:00am-11:30am and 1:00pm-2:30pm

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Nora Castro, Sr. Public Information Officer
San Antonio International Airport
Office: 210-207-3542
Mobile: 210-908-8665

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AVIATION DEPARTMENT
9800 Airport Blvd. San Antonio, TX 78216 | Phone 210.207.SAIA (7242) | Fax 210.207.3500

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