



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BIDEAWEE BRINGS THERAPY DOGS TO STRESSED AIRLINE TRAVELERS**

New York, New York, December 21, 2017 – Bideawee, a leading animal welfare and pet adoption organization serving metropolitan New York and Long Island, is excited to announce its alliance with LaGuardia Gateway Partners, the operator and developer of LaGuardia Central Terminal B, to bring its Pet Therapy Program to travelers. Bideawee's group of volunteer handlers and therapy dogs first started visiting LaGuardia's Central Terminal B the week of Thanksgiving to help reduce the stress of holiday travel, and now visit every Friday.

“For more than 30 years, we’ve been training volunteer handlers and animals to be able to visit nursing homes, hospitals, schools, and other businesses to positively affect those in need of their love and support,” said Alicia Ryan, Senior Manager of Volunteer Programs at Bideawee. “We are happy to offer our therapy dog services to travelers at LaGuardia’s Terminal B. In addition to helping reduce the stress of travel, it also benefits our therapy dogs. They enjoy the attention and affection they receive from their visits. We look forward to continuing this partnership through February 2018.”

LaGuardia Gateway Partners is collaborating with Bideawee as part of its efforts to enhance guest experience in Terminal B while building a new state-of-the-art terminal. The dogs make up the terminal's 'Comfort Crew' and wear branded bandanas to distinguish them from service dogs and canine travelers. Passengers visit with the dogs while waiting for their flights and receive a souvenir trading card with the dog's photo and name.

“It’s no secret that the holiday season can be hectic, which is why we are so happy to have this wonderful comfort dog program for our guests at Terminal B,” said Ed Baklor, Chief Commercial Officer, LaGuardia Gateway Partners. “Just seeing these dogs brings a smile to so many people’s faces, including our hard-working staff. LaGuardia Gateway Partners wants all of our visitors to have a great experience during their travels, and this is just one of the ways we are working to make that happen.”

For more information on Bideawee and their Pet Therapy Program, visit their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

### **About Bideawee**

Bideawee, which means “stay awhile,” in Scottish, is one of the country’s oldest and most respected animal welfare and pet adoption organizations. Founded in 1903, Bideawee’s mission is to be Greater New York’s leader in rescuing, caring for, and placing homeless cats and dogs with people who love them. Bideawee provides an array of high touch services including adoption centers, animal hospitals, pet therapy programs, and pet memorial parks that serve pets and pet lovers on their lifelong journey

together. Bideawee is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 humane animal organization and 100% of Bideawee's funding comes from private sources. Bideawee operates adoption centers in New York City, Wantagh, and Westhampton. For more information, visit: [www.Bideawee.org](http://www.Bideawee.org).

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