

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woods Humane Society Fundraiser with Local Wineries

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9^H ANNUAL WINE 4 PAWS, APRIL 8-9, 2017 – WINE INDUSTRY FUNDRAISER FOR WOODS HUMANE SOCIETY

It's time once again for Wine 4 Paws when over 70 local wineries join together to celebrate our love for animals and share proceeds with Woods Humane Society, headquartered in San Luis Obispo. This year's event will be held April 8 & 9 when wine and animal lovers from all over the state will come together to enjoy our wineries while supporting our furry friends in need. And just in time for this year's event, **Woods is thrilled to announce a second, NEW North County location in Atascadero!**

In this County-wide event, each participating winery contributes to Wine 4 Paws in different ways - some donate 100% of tasting fees, others a percentage of sales for the weekend. Many do something unique and exciting to represent their passion for this cause. You can find anything from doggie shaped chocolates paired with award winning wines to professional photo opps with your four legged best friend.

Wine 4 Paws is held at participating wineries from San Luis Obispo to San Miguel, making it easy to visit the wineries of your choice. We have **over 70 wineries** to choose from! Visit www.wine4paws.com for a complete list of participating wineries as well as a map. With two shelter locations in SLO County, Woods needs our help now more than ever. Thanks to your participation, Woods can continue to provide a loving refuge to the homeless animals in their care who await their "forever homes". When you head out to enjoy our wineries during Wine 4 Paws on April 8 & 9, you can help SLO county animals who await their "forever homes" by simply tasting wine and taking home your favorites!

Wine 4 Paws began in 2009 as a way to help raise money for Woods Humane Society while promoting the Central Coast Wine Region. It has grown from our initial 35 wineries to over 80! Overall, Wine 4 Paws has raised over **\$250,000** for Woods.

Founded in 1955, Woods Humane Society is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to the humane care of homeless dogs and cats in San Luis Obispo County. Their work includes finding loving homes for pets, working to end pet overpopulation through spay/neuter efforts, canine obedience classes, and humane education opportunities for children. Woods relies on the dedication of volunteers and the generosity of donors as they improve the lives of animals throughout our community. Woods Humane Society is also the only animal shelter on the central coast with a fully

operational spay & neuter suite. Their location off of Hwy 1 and Kansas in San Luis Obispo opened its doors in August of 2005 and has been growing ever since, including the North County location in Atascadero in early 2017. Aside from the hundreds of animals Woods cares for each year, the organization maintains partnerships with other local private and county operated animal shelters in an effort to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of animals.

Director Sarah Tomasetti said, "It's hard to believe we are getting close to 10 years and that we continue to grow each year. The wineries in this area are simply amazing. They not only produce some of the finest wine, they also exude compassion for this cause. EVERYBODY wins in this fundraiser! It doesn't get much easier – or more fun – to help all those animals who don't have a forever family yet." Part of the fun is our free map with passport available to print from the Wine 4 Paws website, or at any participating winery during the event. When you visit a winery and help generate a donation, get your passport stamped. Once it's full you can turn it in to any participating winery for entry in the Wine 4 Paws Drawing.

Wine 4 Paws is a great weekend to visit your favorite wineries and find some new ones! To see the full list of participating wineries and a get a free printable map & passport, go to www.wine4paws.com. Then head out to the wineries during the weekend of April 8-9. A portion of your sale or your full tasting fee will be donated to Woods Humane Society on behalf of the wineries!

For additional information please contact Sarah Tomasetti, Director of Wine 4 Paws at info@wine4paws.com.

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