

For immediate release

Date: 6-18-08

Contact: Mary Leake Schilder, 206-419-6646 or marys@paws.org

Local Daredevils Swim Across Puget Sound to Support PAWS

On Sunday, June 29, two local men will swim 3.5 miles across Puget Sound for the ninth year to help raise awareness and funds for the animals at the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). Bob Donovan and Paul Zimmerman will start on Vashon Island and finish at Lincoln Park in West Seattle. Their goal for this *Paddle for PAWS* event is to raise \$10,000 to support programs and services at PAWS.

The two spend the rest of their year keeping in shape by running marathons, hiking, climbing, and other extreme challenges.

Supporters and the public are invited to bring their dogs and binoculars to the shore at Lincoln Park and watch the swimmers arrive at the beach at approximately 4:00 pm. The pair will be escorted across the Sound by a few boats and kayaks of friends, who encourage them and ensure their safety throughout their aquatic adventure.

"We've been raising money for PAWS by swimming for nine years. They've been helping animals in need and educating our community for more than 40. What PAWS does makes what we do really, really easy. We're happy to help out any way we can," says Zimmerman, Redmond resident and Microsoft employee.

"We really believe in what PAWS does," says Donovan who lives in Bothell and manages his family business Kenmore Camera. "They help save the lives of thousands of animals every year, needing tremendous effort and resources to do so."

Donovan and Zimmerman are asking the public to help them meet their goal of raising \$10,000. Donations can be mailed to the attention of Paddle for PAWS, PO Box 1037, Lynnwood, WA 98046, made securely online at paws.org or by calling 425.787.2500 x255.

Both men are available for an interview.

A Northwest leader in protecting animals since 1967, PAWS shelters homeless dogs and cats, rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife, and empowers people to demonstrate compassion and respect for animals in their daily lives.

###