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MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION SEARCHES FOR AMERICA'S BEST VET WITH "THANK YOUR VET FOR A HEALTHY PETSM" CONTEST

Nationwide Essay Contest Honors Veterinarians for Dedication to Improving Animal Health and Well-Being; Co-sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition and DOG FANCY, CAT FANCY and Veterinary Practice News Magazines

Denver (May 20, 2008): If you think your veterinarian is the best in America, nominate him or her for the second annual Thank Your Vet for a Healthy PetSM Contest. The national short-essay contest honors America's veterinarians for their dedication to helping animals and strengthening the bond we have with our pets. The contest is conducted by Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) and sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition, and *DOG FANCY*, *CAT FANCY* and *Veterinary Practice News* magazines, published by BowTie, Inc.

The nationwide essay contest runs from June 1, 2008, to August 31, 2008. Essays can be no longer than 300 words and should address four areas: 1) the veterinarian's outstanding care and treatment to clients, 2) commitment to the human-animal bond, 3) service to the community, and 4) devotion to the veterinary profession. For rules and to enter online, go to www.ThankYourVet.org after June 1. Entries can also be mailed to Morris Animal Foundation, Thank Your Vet Contest, 10200 E. Girard Ave., Ste. B430, Denver, CO 80231. Entries must be submitted electronically or postmarked no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT, August 31, 2008. Entries must follow the official contest rules to be considered. To receive a printed copy of the rules, call 800.243.2345.

"Last year's contest was a huge success with more than 1,000 nominations submitted. We are delighted that Hill's Pet Nutrition has joined us this year as the official corporate sponsor," says Patricia N. Olson, DVM, Ph.D., president and CEO of Morris Animal Foundation. "We are also very pleased to have the BowTie publications returning as our media sponsors. We received many nominations last year from their readers."

The partnership between MAF and Hill's dates back to the 1940s when Dr. Mark L. Morris Sr. developed a special diet that halted kidney disease in dogs. The diet became so popular that Dr. Morris couldn't meet demand, so he teamed with Burton Hill, owner of

the Hill Packing Company, to produce the innovative dog food. This agreement inspired what is today the line of Prescription Diet® pet foods, manufactured by Hill's Pet Nutrition and available exclusively through veterinarians. Dr. Morris used the royalties from that agreement to establish Morris Animal Foundation.

“We are very proud to support this initiative that helps us express just how grateful we are to have so many great veterinarians across the country,” Janet Donlin, Hill's chief veterinarian, said. “The number of nominations and the stories submitted along with them are extremely moving and remind us, the veterinarians, why we chose this rewarding career in the first place.”

One national winner and five regional winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Winners will be contacted by November 1, 2008, and will be honored before their peers at the February 2009 Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas. Winners will be featured in the March 2009 issues of Veterinary Practice News, DOG FANCY and CAT FANCY magazines. All nominees will receive a nomination certificate.

About Morris Animal Foundation: Morris Animal Foundation, established in 1948, is dedicated to funding research that protects, treats and cures companion animals and wildlife. MAF has been at the forefront of funding breakthrough research studies benefiting animals in some 100 countries, spanning all seven continents on earth. MAF has its headquarters in Denver, Colorado. The Foundation has funded nearly 1,400 humane animal health studies. For more information, call (800) 243-2345, or visit www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org.

About Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.

Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc. manufactures Hill's® Prescription Diet® brand pet foods, therapeutic pet foods available only through veterinarians, and Hill's® Science Diet® brand pet foods sold through veterinarians and finer pet specialty stores. Founded more than 60 years ago with a unique commitment to pet nutrition and well-being, Hill's is committed to its mission to help enrich and lengthen the special relationships between people and their pets. Hill's produces high-quality, great-tasting pet foods owners can trust and give to their canine and feline companions as part of a veterinary health care team recommendation. This ultimately improves patient health and the health of the practice. For more information about Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc., and Hill's Evidence-Based Clinical Nutrition™ visit HillsVet.com.