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Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

July 26, 2011

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

It is my pleasure on behalf of the American Veterinary Medical Association and its more than 81,500 members to join you in recognizing the anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, an historic piece of legislation that helps many of our citizens enjoy full and productive lives.

Service animals, particularly our canine companions, provide invaluable guidance and assistance to people with disabilities, and many of our nation's veterinarians play a vital role in these animals' lives, providing them with the care they need throughout their years of dedicated, unconditional service.

The role these animals play – and the level to which they have been accepted in society – is enhanced by the protections and privileges made possible through the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is our honor as veterinarians to be part of these wonderful efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. René A. Carlson
President
American Veterinary Medical Association