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**BANFIELD® PET HOSPITAL AND
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF PHOENIX
PARTNER TO BRING PET EDUCATION TO VISITORS
WITH COMPANION ANIMAL MONTH**

PHOENIX, AZ (April 25, 2012) – May has been designated Companion Animal Month at the Children's Museum of Phoenix thanks to the generous support of Banfield® Pet Hospital, the world's largest veterinary practice with 28 full-service hospitals in the Phoenix area.

During the month of May, Museum visitors will be treated to hands-on, educational, fun activities while learning about pets, pet health, and the exciting and rewarding career of veterinary medicine.

Companion Animal Month at the Museum kicks off on May 5th – Cinco de Mayo – with Banfield's popular FutureVet®, a hands-on, interactive presentation allowing children to learn about the anatomy of animals through anatomical models, x-rays and case studies. Museum visitors will also be able to participate throughout the month in Banfield's Ask-the-Vet! program and the weekly Read to the Dogs series.

Specific program dates are:

FutureVet® Presentation

FutureVet teaches kids what it means to be a responsible pet owner and what doctors look for when they examine pets. Children will receive a FutureVet program diploma, a stethoscope and a goody bag during a graduation ceremony at the end of the presentation.

When: Saturday, May 5th 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Saturday, May 19th 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

This program is designed for children 4 years and older. Space is limited.

Those interested can RSVP here:

<https://tickets.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org/public>.

Ask-the-Vet!

How much food should Jack eat? Why is Lucy itching? What's the best dog for your family? Meet a local Banfield Pet Hospital veterinarian and ask away!

When: Saturday, May 12th 10 a.m.-noon

Saturday, May 26th 10 a.m.-noon

This is a drop-in program. No RSVPs are required.

Read to the Dogs

Join the Children's Museum's Playologists for Story Time in the Book Loft with Pet Partners[®] certified therapy dogs as they read some of your favorite pet-related books!

When: Every Thursday in May, 1:30 p.m.-2 p.m.

This is a drop-in program. No RSVPs are required.

All programs are free with paid Museum admission of \$11 per person. Members and children under the age of 1 are free.

Media Contacts:

Childrens Museum Contact:

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Banfield[®] Pet Hospital Media Hotline, 1-888-355-0595

About Banfield® Pet Hospital

Founded in Portland, Ore., in 1955, Banfield is the largest general veterinary practice in the world. In 2007, Banfield joined the Mars, Inc. family of businesses, and today we are more than 800 hospitals strong in neighborhoods across the United States. More than 2,600 veterinarians at Banfield are committed to giving pets the highest quality of veterinary care. Banfield hospitals offer a full range of comprehensive medical services, computerized medical records, preventive care plans for pets and extended operating hours. Banfield Pet Hospital helps extend the lives of millions of pets each year through Optimum Wellness Plans®. For journalists seeking more information, please visit our press room at <http://www.banfield.com> or contact our Media Hotline at 888-355-0595.

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The Children's Museum of Phoenix, one of the top 10 Children's Museum in the Country (Parents Magazine, 2011), is located in the historic Monroe School Building at 215 N. 7th Street in downtown Phoenix. The Museum opened to the public on June 14, 2008 and offers 48,000 square feet of hands-on, fun and educational activities for children ages birth to 10. The mission of the Museum is to engage the minds, muscles and imaginations of children and the grown-ups who care about them. The Museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 9am to 4pm. Admission is \$11 per person, children under the age of 1 are free.

AzTAP Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities conducted an accessibility evaluation in August 2008 and summarized, "the Children's Museum of Phoenix is the most exceptionally disability-aware arts institution this evaluator has ever surveyed."

The Children's Museum of Phoenix is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information visit www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org.