



The Children's Assessment Center

**For Immediate Release**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY**

**'Paw and Order' Program Debuts at  
The Children's Assessment Center**

**April 20, 2010-** The Children's Assessment Center's Forensic Services Division in collaboration with The Harris County District Attorney's Office is pleased to announce the incorporation of the "Paw and Order - Special Dog Unit" program at The CAC. This twice monthly pilot program is designed to comfort children who are victims of sexual assault and offers children the opportunity to interact with animals in a positive, nurturing environment prior to giving statements and providing information during an investigation of child abuse.

Paw and Order dogs will be wearing distinctive bandanas that identify them as service animals and will be visiting The CAC on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. This program is fully-funded by donations and volunteers, so there will be no cost to Harris County or The CAC Foundation.

The CAC Forensic Services Division is thrilled to offer this innovative program to children and families whose lives have been torn apart by sexual abuse. Many studies address the beneficial aspects of the human/animal bond and show *"that interaction with animals can reduce stress, lower blood pressure and enhance self-esteem,"* not to mention warm, friendly animals just make you feel good. Our hope is that young sexual assault victims will experience The CAC as a safe haven that the reduction in stress will lead to better witness statements and that families find hope and healing when they walk through our doors.

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