



## **CYPRESS HOMECARE SOLUTIONS CELEBRATES ACHIEVMENT OF FOUR-LEGGED TEAM MEMBER LACEY**

*First Member of Pet Therapy Program Excels To Earn Therapy Dog International Certification*

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (March 26, 2011) – With the success of [Lacey](#) at the core of its new Pet Therapy Program, [Cypress HomeCare Solutions](#) announces Lacey's Therapy Dog International Certification. Lacey provides pet therapy, free of charge, to clients of the number one home healthcare agency.

*Ranking Arizona* named Cypress HomeCare Solutions the number one home healthcare agency in 2010 and 2012. Lacey is an example of how the company continues to evolve and add new means of exceeding expectations and improving the quality of life for their clients.

"Lacey provides a type of care that no human can," said Bob Roth, Managing Partner of Cypress HomeCare Solutions. "Since her first training to her passing her exam, we have all seen the way she positively influences our clients. She is happy to serve them and they feel grateful to have her as part of their therapy team – to many she is a [hero](#)."

Emotional benefits of pet therapy reported among elderly homecare patients include reduction in anxiety, boredom, and depression. Therapy dogs like Lacey provide social stimulation and many clients display an increased awareness and attention span following their pet therapy sessions.

Studies on elderly patients with dementia have revealed visits from a pet can notably increase patient interaction, improve moods and decrease agitation, as evidenced by frequent smiles and laughter when the pet is present. Observers describe it as if a veil has been lifted, and the patient suddenly becomes alive again.

A visit from a pet can be a source of hope and communication. Looking forward to a visit gives that spark of anticipation all humans need to help feel optimistic. Pets can start a conversation and help those who are struggling against emotional difficulties or physical speech impairment due to a stroke. "Cypress HomeCare team member Lacey the Lab is an excellent conversationalist. Sometimes it's just a wag of her tail that says just the right thing," continued Roth.

Lacey finished her training and received her official Therapy Dog International Certification with the Animal Actors of Arizona in February 2012. The training for pet therapy differs from basic obedience training by exposing the dogs to different stimuli such as loud sounds, and other factors they will encounter during their

pet therapy services. The program evaluates comfort levels when being touched and each dog's responsiveness and friendliness around people. Lacey is calm, gentle, people-oriented and eager to please. These characteristics are necessary prerequisites to be a candidate for the pet therapy program. Finally, the dogs are tested by a Therapy International dog tester to receive their pet therapy certification.

### **About Cypress HomeCare Solutions**

Cypress HomeCare Solutions is dedicated to providing the highest quality homecare services to aging seniors or families with loved ones who are chronically ill or disabled. Cypress HomeCare Solutions has touched the lives of thousands of families by providing compassionate care in people's homes since being founded by the Roth Family in 1994. Fostering independence, enhanced quality of life and peace of mind, Cypress is one of the only homecare agencies in the State of Arizona to provide in-house training for its caregivers in its Caregiver Training Lab. The company maintains the highest caliber of care by constantly evaluating its clients' needs and caregivers' skills, and always focusing on finding the right solution. Visit [cypresshomecare.com](http://cypresshomecare.com) for more information.

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