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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DEN Welcomes Inky the Dalmatian as its 101<sup>st</sup> Member of the Canine Airport Therapy Squad**

**DENVER – April 5, 2018** – Denver International Airport (DEN) today announced the 101<sup>st</sup> dog to join its ever-growing Canine Airport Therapy Squad (CATS) – and you guessed it – it’s a Dalmatian.

“Inky,” a two-year old, 39-pound female, partners with her owner, Nathan Gulash, and was introduced to CATS fans in the airport’s terminal. The dynamic duo lives in Denver, where Inky loves treats, including peanut butter and pizza crusts. Inky enjoys window seats and counting her spots, but hates nail trims.

“Our CATS program has become extremely popular with passengers and, as fate would have it, we were lucky enough to add a Dalmatian as our 101<sup>st</sup> member,” said CEO Kim Day. “We know our passengers will give Inky a warm welcome with smiles and hugs. And, we aren’t stopping at 101. We will be introducing even more CATS in the months to come.”

Like all CATS, Inky and Nathan have received special training and screening to operate around DEN. Members of the CATS teams are chosen only after an extensive interview and testing process. Each animal is a family pet and must have a calm, friendly demeanor in public. The animals and their owners are trained, registered and insured by certified therapy organizations. Each CATS team must have therapy experience at another facility before serving at DEN.

When the program started in 2015, DEN introduced 28 registered therapy dogs representing 14 breeds. Today, the airport has 101 and will soon have nearly 110 dogs representing 45 breeds as well as one domestic shorthair cat.

All CATS teams work a minimum of 10 hours per quarter. While the dates of visits are flexible, CATS and their handlers average three visits each month and walk the concourses delighting and comforting passengers. Each of the CATS has his or her own trading card that includes interesting facts about them, including their “pet peeves.”

In addition to being the largest airport animal therapy program in the U.S., CATS is also among the most fashion-forward programs, with the best dressed therapy pups at any airport in the world. They can be found wearing easily recognizable, blue plaid apparel custom designed by Spyder Active Sports Inc., a Colorado company that has become one of the largest ski-specialty brands in the world.

To learn more about each of our CATS, please visit [www.flydenver.com/cats](http://www.flydenver.com/cats).

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*Denver International Airport is the fifth-busiest airport in the United States. With more than 61 million passengers traveling through the airport each year, DEN is one of the busiest airline hubs in the world’s largest aviation market. DEN is the primary economic engine for the state of Colorado, generating more than \$26 billion for the region annually. For more information visit [www.FlyDenver.com](http://www.FlyDenver.com), check us out on [YouTube](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).*

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