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Zakk and Pumpkin, an Unlikely Duo, Grace Cover of Newly Released 2012 Topel Wine Tails Calendar

Healdsburg, CA, Monday, October 25, 2011— Five years ago, Studio City photographer Jeffrey Bloom brought home a Maltipoo puppy he named “Pumpkin.” His older pet, a rescue cat named Zakk, was not impressed and spurned Pumpkin’s attempts to become friends. Eventually, Pumpkin’s feminine wiles won out and, over time, the duo has become inseparable. This week, their friendship is immortalized on the cover of the 2012 Topel Wine Tails Calendar, a benefit for the Healdsburg Animal Shelter.

The 2012 calendar is the fourth published by Marcus and Donnis Topel, who own Topel Winery in Hopland and the Topel Tasting Room in Healdsburg.

“It’s our way to give back to the community as well as a means to elevate our brand,” explained Donnis Topel. “My husband and I are true animal lovers and this project is very personal for both of us. The rewards we reap are overwhelming — not necessarily from the financial perspective, but from the friendships we’ve forged over the years. Our doggie friends bring their humans to the tasting room time and again, and we’ve developed a reputation — well-deserved, in our humble opinion — for being one of the most dog-friendly tasting rooms in Wine Country.”

The first three calendars featured only dogs. This year the invitation to “shoot your pet” (with a camera, of course!) was extended to cat lovers as well.

“That’s why it’s fitting that the cover features Zakk and Pumpkin — a remarkable union of a feline and canine — and it’s perfect to promote adoptions homeless animals through the Healdsburg Animal Shelter, which is one of the finest animal services organizations in Northern California,” Donnis said.

TOPEL WINERY

The calendars are available at Topel Tasting Room, located just off Healdsburg Plaza at 125 Matheson Street. Price is \$20 per calendar, and every dollar raised goes directly to the shelter, as the Topels cover all production and printing costs. The Tasting Room will host its fourth annual Dogtoberfest on Saturday, October 29, to celebrate the release of the calendar. Human and canine treats will be served — as well as wine! — and the community is invited from noon to 5 p.m. Artist Robert Harris will paint pet portraits (for a fee) and pet psychic Marla Steele will give readings (complimentary) from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Topel Tasting Room at 707-433-4116 or visit us online at www.topelwines.com, www.twitter.com/topelwinery or www.facebook.com/topelwinery.