

Patterson Companies Acquires Leading, Value-Added Distributor Of Companion-Pet Veterinary Products

St. Paul, MN—October 6, 2008—Patterson Companies, Inc. (Nasdaq: PDCO) today announced the acquisition by its Webster Veterinary Supply unit of Columbus Serum Company, a full service distributor of companion-pet veterinary supplies, equipment and pharmaceuticals, with sales of approximately \$166 million in 2007. Serving veterinarians in the Midwest and mid-Atlantic regions, Columbus Serum will significantly strengthen Webster's current competitive position in these markets.

The all-cash transaction is expected to be moderately accretive during Columbus Serum's first full year as part of Patterson.

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Columbus Serum has established a strong reputation for customer service and a substantial presence in its regional markets over the past 86 years. The company serves its customers through more than 60 territory sales representatives and over 50 in-house customer service representatives. Opportunities exist to leverage the distribution centers and sales offices of the combined businesses.

James W. Wiltz, Patterson's president and chief executive officer, commented: "The acquisition of Columbus Serum marks a significant step forward in the growth and value-added development of our Webster Veterinary business. We have long said that Webster represents our platform for establishing the leading position in the nation's companion-pet veterinary supply market. We believe the acquisition of this growing and profitable distributor is bringing this strategy to fruition."

George L. Henriques, president of Webster Veterinary Supply, said: "In addition to bolstering our competitive position in the Midwest and mid-Atlantic markets, the acquisition of this highly respected distributor expands the range of products and services available to Columbus Serum's customers, while creating additional opportunities for the employees of this family-owned firm founded in 1922. Columbus Serum also represents an excellent strategic fit with Webster, since both companies share a strong commitment to a value-added, full-service approach to the companion-pet veterinary supply marketplace."

In addition, Webster announced the acquisition of Odyssey Veterinary Software LLC, an early stage developer and marketer of Diagnostic Imaging Atlas (DIA) software. An innovative client communications tool, DIA encompasses over 2,000 3D clinical animations and images, which enable the veterinarian to more fully explain and illustrate a pet's diagnosis and recommended treatment to their clients.

Patterson also announced the acquisition by its Patterson Dental Canada subsidiary of Denesca, a Canadian dental distributor serving the Toronto and Montreal markets. With sales of approximately \$12 million, Denesca strengthens the current position of Patterson Dental Canada in these two large markets.

About Patterson Companies, Inc.

Patterson Companies, Inc. is a value-added distributor serving the dental, companion-pet veterinarian and rehabilitation supply markets.

Dental Market

As Patterson's largest business, Patterson Dental provides a virtually complete range of consumable dental products, equipment and software, turnkey digital solutions and value-added services to dentists and dental laboratories throughout North America.

Veterinary Market

Webster Veterinary is the nation's second largest distributor of consumable veterinary supplies, equipment and software, diagnostic products, vaccines and pharmaceuticals to companion-pet veterinary clinics.

Rehabilitation Market

Patterson Medical is the world's leading distributor of rehabilitation supplies and non-wheelchair assistive patient products to the physical and occupational therapy markets. The unit's global customer base includes hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics and dealers.

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This release contains forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are information of a non-historical nature and are subject to risks and uncertainties that are beyond the Company's ability to control. The Company cautions shareholders and prospective investors that the following factors, among others, may cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements: competition within the dental, veterinary, and rehabilitative and assistive living supply industries; changes in the economics of dentistry, including reduced growth in expenditures by private dental insurance plans, the effects of economic conditions and the effects of healthcare reform, which may affect future per capita expenditures for dental services and the ability and willingness of dentists to invest in high-technology products; the effects of healthcare related legislation and regulation which may affect expenditures or reimbursements for rehabilitative and assistive products; changes in the economics of the veterinary supply market, including reduced growth in per capita expenditures for veterinary services and reduced growth in the number of households owning pets; the ability of the Company to maintain satisfactory relationships with its sales force; unforeseen operating risks; unexpected loss of key senior management personnel; risks associated with the dependence on manufacturers of the Company's products; and the ability of the Company to successfully integrate the recent acquisitions into its existing business. Forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by the cautionary language set forth in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Form 10-K for fiscal year 2007.

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