

Les C. Vinney Elected to Board of Directors of Patterson Companies

St. Paul, MN—December 9, 2008—Patterson Companies (Nasdaq: PDCO) today announced the election of Les C. Vinney to its Board of Directors. He is the former president and chief executive officer of STERIS Corporation (NYSE: STE), a leading provider of infection prevention and surgical products and services for the healthcare, pharmaceutical and research markets.

Mr. Vinney, whose election increases the Patterson Board to nine directors, will serve on the compensation and governance committees.

Currently serving as Senior Advisor to STERIS, Mr. Vinney was the company's president and chief executive officer from 2000 to 2007, before which time he was senior vice president and chief financial officer. He previously held various senior management positions with Goodrich Corporation (formerly B.F. Goodrich), including the post of chief financial officer.

Mr. Vinney serves on the Board of Directors of Campbell Soup Company (NYSE: CPB) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

James W. Wiltz, Patterson's president and chief executive officer, said: "Les Vinney is a proven and successful leader, who brings to our Board of Directors a broad business background, including experience with international expansion and mergers and acquisitions. We are pleased to have a person with Les' capabilities on our Board and believe he will play a prominent role in Patterson's future success."

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; unexpected loss of key senior management personnel; unforeseen operating risks; 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.

For additional information contact:

R. Stephen Armstrong
Executive Vice President & CFO
651/686-1600

Richard G. Cinquina
Equity Market Partners
904/415-1415