

Contact: Jackie Reau
Game Day Communications
(513) 929-4263
jreau@gamedaypr.com



**National Association of Sports Commissions' Symposium to feature Canine Cuddling
*Symposium set for April 16-19 in Hartford***

CINCINNATI (November 22, 2011) -- The 20th anniversary edition of the National Association of Sports Commissions (NASC) Sports Event Symposium, to be held April 16-19, 2012 in Hartford, Connecticut, will give attendees a hands-on experience with the Canine Cuddling Program.

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and New England's only Guide Dog School, trains specially-bred German Shepherd dogs to lead people with blindness to a life of increased independence and mobility. Canine cuddling is a valuable socialization tool and key in training young dogs to explore the world and get acquainted with new surroundings and people.

In an effort to contribute to this training, a designated area will be set up at the 2012 NASC Symposium allowing attendees to socialize with guide dogs in training. Volunteer puppy raisers will bring several dogs that attendees can spend time with as well as be available to answer questions and share their passion for what they do.

"As Chairman of Sports Illinois, I'm excited about this sponsorship opportunity," said Pete Garlock, chair of Sports Illinois. "Sports Illinois has always strived to provide fresh and unique sponsorship to the attendees of the NASC Sports Event *Symposium*, and we feel this will be one of our most exceptional efforts yet. Not only will it hopefully provide fun, stress-relieving moments for the attendees of the show, it also offers a much-needed service to the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc. organization and will hopefully help prepare these dogs for their intended service."

Registration is now open for the 20th annual Symposium, offering sports event industry professionals exceptional education and pre-scheduled appointments between host organizations, event owners and industry suppliers designed specifically to help increase their share of the business. The 2012 convention will be at the Connecticut Convention Center in downtown Hartford. Registration information and symposium schedules can be found at www.NASCsymposium.com.

###