

SANTA MONICA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sept. 20, 2000--Veterinary Centers of America Inc. (Nasdaq:VCAI) announced that it has completed the previously announced merger of the company for \$15.00 per share in cash.

The merger was consummated after stockholders approved a plan of merger. Registered stockholders shortly will receive instructions regarding the exchange of shares for cash. The transaction was led by Leonard Green & Partners L.P. and members of the company's management.

In connection with the transaction, the company obtained a new \$300 million senior credit facility. In addition, the company issued \$20 million in Senior Subordinated Notes and \$100 million in Holding Company Notes.

"We are very happy to have completed this transaction for the Company and its stockholders," said Robert Antin, the company's chief executive officer. "VCA reached a very important milestone in its development of the most successful veterinary management company in the United States. Our partnership with Leonard Green will help us to continue the goal of being the No. 1 provider of quality petcare."

Robert Antin also stated that, "The performance and conduct of Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo and their relationships with Leonard Green have made the transaction as seamless as possible and as successful as we had hoped for the stockholders."

John Danhakl, partner at Leonard Green & Partners L.P., said, "We eagerly anticipate our partnership with VCA and its employees. This merger allows VCA to continue to develop as the nation's premier animal health care provider."

Veterinary Centers of America Inc., has established the largest network of freestanding, full-service animal hospitals in the country, employing over 700 veterinarians in 201 facilities across the United States. The company also operates the largest network of veterinary-exclusive clinical laboratories in the nation, performing over 60,000 diagnostic tests a day.

Leonard Green & Partners L.P. is a private Los Angeles-based merchant banking firm specializing in organizing, structuring and sponsoring management buy-outs, going private transactions and recapitalizations of established public and private companies. Leonard Green & Partners L.P. has significant investments in Liberty Group Publishing Inc., a publisher of community newspapers, White Cap Industries Inc., a leading business-to-business retailer of specialty tools and materials, Twinlab Corp., a leading manufacturer and marketer of vitamins and nutritional supplements, Leslie's Poolmart Inc., the nation's leading retailer of pool supplies, and Gart Sports

Co., the nation's second largest sporting goods retailer. Leonard Green & Partners L.P. is the largest private equity firm in Southern California managing in excess of \$1.7 billion of private equity capital.