ParAir Couple Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Pet and Animal Transportation Association

November 14, 2012 – The International Pet and Animal Transportation Association (IPATA), the non-profit organization dedicated to the care and welfare of pets and animals during transport, presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Mike and Jean Parish of ParAir at its 36th International Conference in Madrid.

IPATA’s Lifetime Achievement Award honors an individual whose lifetime body of work demonstrates dedication to the pet transportation industry and to IPATA.

“Mike and Jean are a great team and have been shipping pets for more than 60 years,” said Manuel Leunda, IPATA President. “It’s truly rare to find a pet shipper who lasts this long in our business. They have been a constant force in the industry and have shared their knowledge and expertise with so many of us over the years.”

Mike Parish started his business in 1949, boarding and showing dogs and pet grooming. He met his wife Jean and began working together in Colchester, England, running kennels and a dog shop. In the early 1950s, U.K. breeders were starting to sell their puppies abroad. The Parishes were asked to manufacture wooden air kennels and to arrange the shipment of these pets. The problem at that time - there was only propeller aircraft that would carry small pets, so larger dogs had to travel by sea.

In the 1960s, Mike and Jean built and opened their Quarantine Kennel and Cattery which up until January 2012 ran to almost full capacity. Mike was invited to sit on the Government Advisory Committee to set up the U.K. Pet Passport System which was later adopted by Brussels for use throughout the European Union.

The IPATA International Conference is the world's largest gathering of pet shipping professionals. Attendees include animal handlers, pet moving providers, kennel operators, veterinarians and others who are dedicated to the care and welfare of pets during transport.

About IPATA
The International Pet and Animal Transportation Association, Inc. (IPATA) is a non-profit, worldwide trade association for animal handlers, pet moving providers, kennel operators, veterinarians and others who are dedicated to the care and welfare of pets and animals during transport. The organization was founded in 1979. It began with six founding members and now has more than 325 members in over 70 countries. IPATA serves its members, the pet transport industry, and the public at large. For more information, or to find a professional pet shipper, visit www.ipata.org.

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