



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**  
Doug Myers  
518 242-2230  
[dmyers@albanyairport.com](mailto:dmyers@albanyairport.com)

## **WHEN PIGS FLY - - -BACON BITS JOINS AIRPORT CANINE TEAM**

Albany, NY (December 14, 2016) - - - Bacon Bits, a 20-month-old potbelly pig, today joined the Albany International Airport's team of Canine Ambassadors. Bacon Bits, a trained therapy pig, will patrol the Albany International Airport terminal along with 30 trained therapy dogs and their Ambassador handlers.

"Airports can by their nature boost anxiety levels due to the stress related to arriving on time, parking, checking in and navigating security lines," said Rev. Kenneth Doyle, Chairman of the Albany County Airport Authority. "Our program enables children and adults the opportunity to relax and relieve stress through interaction with trained and friendly animals.

Airport Canine Ambassadors come in all shapes and sizes. Tiny Tallulah, a fluffy Yorkshire terrier weighs only 3.6 pounds. Murphy, a Newfoundland, tips the scale at 130 pounds. Bacon Bits is somewhat in between at 101 pounds.

"The Albany International Airport Canine Customer Service Ambassador Program has proven to be successful at making our travelers' experience a positive and pleasant one," said Helen Chadderdon, Ambassador Program Director. "Our Canine Ambassadors along with Bacon Bits are effective in reducing stress while promoting smiles and laughter and we encourage folks to pet our animals and take photos or selfies."

Owner Terry Hutchison adopted Bacon Bits in 2015. She learned of the Airport Canine Ambassador program and requested that Bacon Bits be permitted to "interview" for one of the coveted positions. A review of Bacon Bits' resume noted 65 visits to adult homes and schools. Following a successful get-together with some of the Airport's canines, Bacon Bits was drafted into the program and awarded special pig wings.

People have already asked...will Bacon Bits Fly?

"I'm not sure that Bacon Bits is capable of flying by himself due to his shape and size," said owner Terry Hutchison. "My objective is for Bacon Bits to meet as many people as possible and make our Albany travelers smile."