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3:06-CV-01446 SEC V. ONE OR MORE UNKNOWN

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alleged in this complaint.



securities exchange, in connection with the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business

2. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, because certain of the transactions, acts, practices, and courses of business constituting violations of the federal securities laws occurred within this district.

Document 1

#### **Summary**

- 3. This matter involves insider trading in call options (i.e., the right to purchase stock at a specified price on or before a specified date) for the stock of Petco Animal Supplies, Inc. ("Petco"), shortly before its July 14, 2006 announcement that it had agreed to be acquired by two private equity investment firms for \$1.8 billion. Under the acquisition agreement, Petco shareholders are to receive \$29 per share, which would be a substantial premium over Petco's July 13 closing price of \$19.45. In reaction to the news, Petco's stock opened on July 14 at \$27.85, up 43% from its July 13, 2006 closing price.
- 4. From June 27 through July 13, 2006, one or more unknown purchasers used financial institutions in Switzerland and England to buy speculative short-term, out-of-the-money Petco call options with a strategy that the price of Petco stock would rise rapidly. The unknown purchasers' profit from these call options after Petco's July 14 announcement is a total of approximately \$862,000, consisting of \$482,325 for the purchaser buying through the Swiss account and \$379,640 for the purchaser buying through the British account.
- 5. As set forth below, the Commission has reason to believe that the defendants engaged in insider trading in purchasing the call options. The Commission seeks against each defendant permanent injunctions, disgorgement with prejudgment interest, and civil penalties.

#### The Defendants

6. One or More Unknown Purchasers of Petco Call Options through Habib

Bank AG. In late June and early July 2006, client(s) of Habib Bank AG in Zurich, Switzerland, purchased through Habib Bank a total of 850 call options for Petco common stock for \$22,925.

Based on the July 14, 2006 closing prices, the profit on these option trades is approximately \$482,325.

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One or More Unknown Purchasers of Petco Call Options through Man

Financial Ltd. In late June 2006, client(s) of Man Financial Ltd. in London, England, purchased through Man Financial a total of 613 Petco call options for \$30,040. Based on the July 14, 2006 closing prices, the profit on these option trades is approximately \$379,640.

## Other Relevant Entity

8. <u>Petco Animal Supplies, Inc.</u> is a Delaware corporation headquartered in San Diego, California, and operates almost 800 retail stores that sell pet food, supplies, and services. Petco's common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market and its options trade on the Chicago Board Options Exchange.

## The Insider Trading

#### The July 14, 2006 Petco Announcement

- 9. Before the markets opened on July 14, 2006, Petco announced that it had entered into an agreement to be acquired by a company owned by two private equity funds, Green Equity Investors IV, LP (which is affiliated with Leonard Green & Partners, LP) and TPG Partners V, LP (which is affiliated with Texas Pacific Group). Under the acquisition agreement, the buyer agreed to pay \$1.8 billion for Petco (including the assumption of \$120 million in debt), and the shareholders will be paid \$29 per share. The \$29 per share price represents a 49% premium above the \$19.45 price at which Petco shares closed the previous day.
- 10. There was no public information regarding the Petco acquisition prior to the July 14, 2006 announcement. The market reacted strongly to Petco's announcement with dramatic rises in Petco's stock price and trading volume. In the two months prior to the announcement, Petco's average price was \$20.22 per share with average daily trading volume of 621,805 shares.

  Moreover, Petco's stock price had not traded above \$22 since May 24, 2006. On July 14, 2006, Petco's share price increased 43% to close at \$27.89 and its trading volume increased by almost 4,450% to 28.2 million shares.

### The Options Trades

- 11. In late June and early July 2006, as described more fully below, one or more purchasers bought call options through financial institutions in Switzerland and England. The option contracts purchased by the unknown purchasers were short term, expiring on July 22 and August 19, 2006 (in the case of the options purchased on June 28, expiring as little as three weeks after they were purchased), and all of them were out of the money, meaning that their exercise price was higher than the price at which Petco common stock was trading when the option contracts were purchased.
- 12. Specifically, one or more clients of Habib Bank AG in Zurich, Switzerland, purchased a total of 850 Petco call options for \$22,925. On June 28, 2006 (only 16 days before the acquisition announcement), the Habib Bank client(s) purchased 665 Petco call options that expire on July 22, 2006, with an exercise price of \$22.50, at a total cost of \$9,975. On July 13, 2006 (just one day before the acquisition announcement), the Habib Bank client(s) purchased another 185 call options that expire on August 19, 2006, with an exercise price of \$20, at a cost of \$12,950.
- 13. Habib Bank placed these trades on behalf of its client(s) through Bache Financial Ltd., a Swiss broker-dealer, which placed the trade through its U.S. affiliate broker-dealer Prudential Equity Group, LLC. The identity of Habib Bank's client(s) is not known to Prudential Equity and apparently not to Bache Financial. It is unknown whether these options have been sold, but the options could be sold and the proceeds transferred overseas at any time. Based on the July 14, 2006 closing prices, the profit on these option trades is approximately \$482,325, which profit (either in the form of the options themselves or the proceeds from the sale of the options) is currently being held at Prudential Equity Group.
- 14. In addition, in late June 2006, one or more clients of Man Financial Ltd. in London, England, purchased a total of 613 Petco call options for \$30,040. On June 27, 2006 (only 17 days before the acquisition announcement), the Man Financial client(s) purchased 91 Petco call options that expire on July 22, 2006, with an exercise price of \$20, and 220 call options that expire on August 19, 2006, with an exercise price of \$20, for a total cost of \$25,510.

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On June 28, 2006 (only 16 days before the announcement), the Man Financial client(s) purchased 302 call options that expire on July 22, 2006, with an exercise price of \$22.50, at a total cost of \$4,530.

- 15. Man Financial placed these trades through its U.S. affiliate broker-dealer Man Securities, Inc. These Petco call options have been sold and the proceeds are at Man Securities and could be transferred at any time. Based on the July 14, 2006 closing prices, the profit on these option trades is approximately \$379,640.
- Petco options trade infrequently, and the options at issue represent a substantial 16. portion of all the trading in the relevant options. In particular, in the month preceding the July 14 announcement, the Habib Bank and Man Financial client(s) accounted for 71% of all call options purchased with a July expiration and a \$22.50 strike price, 12.8% of all call options purchased with a July expiration and a \$20 strike price, and 78% of all call options purchased with an August expiration and a \$20 strike price.

#### First Claim for Relief

# Fraud In Connection With The Purchase or Sale of Securities Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Thereunder

- 17. The Commission realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 16 above.
- 18. The defendants, by engaging in the conduct described above, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale of a security, by the use of means or instrumentalities of interstate commerce, of the mails, or of the facilities of a national securities exchange, with scienter:
  - employed devices, schemes, or artifices to defraud;
  - made untrue statements of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact b. necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
  - engaged in acts, practices, or courses of business which operated or would C. operate as a fraud or deceit upon other persons.

Page 7 of 9

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19. violations.

By engaging in the conduct described above, the defendants, and each of them, violated, and unless restrained and enjoined will continue to violate, Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.

#### **Prayer For Relief**

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that the Court:

Issue findings of fact and conclusions of law that the defendants committed the alleged

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Issue a judgment, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d), permanently enjoining the defendants and their officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of the judgment by personal service or otherwise, and each of them, from violating Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5.

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Issue, in a form consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65, a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction freezing the options at issue and/or the proceeds from the sale or exercise of the options and an order prohibiting the destruction of documents and expediting discovery.

IV.

Order each defendant to disgorge all ill-gotten gains from their illegal conduct, together with prejudgment interest thereon.

Order each of the defendants to pay civil penalties pursuant to Section 21A of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-1.

VI.

Retain jurisdiction of this action in accordance with the principles of equity and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in order to implement and carry out the terms of all orders and decrees that may be entered, or to entertain any suitable application or motion for additional

relief within the jurisdiction of this Court.

Grant such other and further relief as this Court may determine to be just and necessary.

VII.

DATED: July 17, 2006

DAVID J. VAN HAVERMAAT

PETER F. DEL GRECO

MARC J. BLAU

CATHERINE A. WIMBERLY

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Securities and Exchange Commission

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(Nov. 07/19) The JS-44 civil cover sheet and rules of court. This form, approphect. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS	wed by the Judicial Conference	ein neither replace nor sup of the United States in S	plement eptember	: 1974, is required for the us	se of the	Clerk of Court for the p	urpose of initiating t	rovided by local he civil docket	
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(b) County of residence of first listed plaintiff (except in U.S. Plaintiff cases)				COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED					
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