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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ECHO HEALTHCARE ANNOUNCES XLNT VETERINARY CARE
HIRING OF DR. STEPHEN ETTINGER AS CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

VIENNA, Virginia—March 15, 2007—Echo Healthcare Acquisition Corp. (“Echo” or the “Company”) (**OTCBB: EHHA.OB**), a blank check company, announced today that XLNT Veterinary Care, Inc. (“XLNT”), a provider of veterinary primary care services to companion animals through a network of fully-owned veterinary hospitals, has hired Dr. Stephen Ettinger, D.V.M., as the Company’s newly appointed Chief Medical Officer, effective immediately. Echo previously announced on September 11, 2006 that it entered into a definitive agreement to acquire the privately-held XLNT, in a transaction expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2007.

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. Steve Ettinger as our new Chief Medical Officer,” commented Robert Wallace, Chief Executive Officer of XLNT. “Dr. Ettinger comes to the XLNT family through the acquisition of his hospital, California Animal Veterinary Specialists located in Los Angeles. Dr. Ettinger brings more than 40 years of experience in the veterinary care industry to XLNT and will chair the Medical Advisory Board at XLNT. We expect his extensive experience will help keep XLNT on the leading edge of veterinary medicine.”

Prior to joining XLNT, Dr. Ettinger was director of the California Animal Hospital Veterinary Specialty Group in Los Angeles, one of the oldest and best recognized practices in the state. Prior to that, Dr. Ettinger was a co-founder of Berkeley Veterinary Medical Group, which was the first group veterinary specialty practice in the United States. During this period, Dr. Ettinger was also a Clinical Professor of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis from 1972 until 1980.

Dr. Ettinger graduated from Cornell University and completed intern and resident training at the Animal Center in New York City. He was a National Institute of Health Postdoctoral Fellow in Cardiology in New York for seven years. His areas of expertise include small animal veterinary internal medicine, small animal cardiology, hospital management and professional veterinary development. He is a Diplomat of the American

College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Cardiology and Internal Medicine), a Fellow (FACC) of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association (FAHA).

About Echo Healthcare Acquisition Corp.

Echo Healthcare Acquisition Corp. is a blank check company that was formed on June 10, 2005 to serve as a vehicle for the acquisition of one or more domestic or international operating businesses in the healthcare industry. On March 22, 2006, Echo consummated its initial public offering (“IPO”) of 6,250,000 Units. On March 27, 2006, the Company consummated the closing of 937,500 additional Units subject to the underwriters' over-allotment option. The 7,187,500 Units sold in the IPO (including the 937,500 Units subject to the underwriters' over-allotment option) were sold at an offering price of \$8.00 per Unit, which together with the private placement of the 458,333 warrants to certain stockholders and directors of the Company at an offering price of \$1.20 per share, generated total gross proceeds of \$58,050,000. Of this amount, \$54,947,000 was placed in trust. Echo common stock trades on the OTC Bulletin Board under the symbol EHHA.OB. To learn more about Echo, visit the website at <http://www.echohealthcare.com>.

About XLNT Veterinary Care, Inc.

XLNT Veterinary Care, Inc. a provider of veterinary primary care services to companion animals through a network of fully-owned veterinary hospitals. XLNT currently owns and operates 24 veterinary hospitals in the state of California.

Additional Information about the Merger and Where to Find It

Echo plans to file a Registration Statement on Form S-4 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) in connection with the merger, and Echo expects to mail a Proxy Statement/Prospectus to stockholders of Echo concerning the proposed merger transaction. **Investors and security holders of Echo are urged to read the registration statement and proxy statement/prospectus and the other relevant materials carefully when they become available because they will contain important information about Echo, XLNT, the merger and related matters.** Investors and security holders will be able to obtain the documents free of charge at the SEC’s web site at www.sec.gov. In addition, investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Echo by directing a written request to: Corporate Secretary, Echo Healthcare Acquisition Corp., 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1300, Vienna, VA 22182. Investors and security holders are urged to read the proxy statement, prospectus and the other relevant materials when they become available before making any voting or investment decision with respect to the merger.

In addition to the Registration Statement and Proxy Statement/Prospectus, Echo files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any reports, statements or other information filed by Echo at the SEC public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please

call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Echo's filings with the SEC are also available to the public from commercial document-retrieval services and at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov.

Interests of Certain Persons in the Merger

Echo will be soliciting proxies from the stockholders of Echo in connection with the merger and issuance of shares of Echo common stock in the merger. In addition, Morgan Joseph & Co. Inc. ("Morgan Joseph"), Roth Capital Partners, LLC ("Roth"), the directors and executive officers of Echo and the directors, officers and affiliates of XLNT may also be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies. Information about Morgan Joseph, Roth and the directors and executive officers of Echo is set forth in the prospectus filed on March 17, 2006. Information about the directors and executive officers of XLNT as well as updated information about Morgan Joseph, Roth and the directors and officers of Echo will be included in the Proxy Statement/Prospectus. Morgan Joseph, Roth, the directors and executive officers of Echo and XLNT have interests in the merger, some of which may differ from, or may be in addition to those of the respective stockholders of Echo generally. Those interests will be described in greater detail in the Proxy Statement/Prospectus with respect to the merger, which may include potential fees to Morgan Joseph and Roth, employment relationships, potential membership on the Echo Board of Directors, option and stock holdings and indemnification.

Safe Harbor Statement

Except for the historical information contained herein, the matters set forth in this press release, including, but not limited to, statements as to the expected benefits of the combination of the two companies, veterinary hospital acquisitions, future product and service offerings, expected synergies, and timing of closing, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The words "believe," "expect," "intend," "estimate," "anticipate," "will," "guidance," "forecast," "outlook" and similar expressions identify some, but not all, of these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially, including, but not limited to, the satisfaction of certain conditions to closing of the proposed merger, including the risk that stockholder approval might not be obtained in a timely manner or at all, the ability to successfully integrate the two companies and achieve expected synergies following the merger, the ability of the combined company to successfully acquire, integrate and operate veterinary hospitals and clinics, requirements or changes affecting the businesses in which XLNT is engaged, veterinary services trends, including factors affecting supply and demand, dependence on acquisitions for growth, labor and personnel relations, changing interpretations of generally accepted accounting principles and other risks detailed from time to time in the SEC reports of Echo, including its prospectus filed with the SEC on March 17, 2006. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date hereof. Echo disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements.