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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 711

Offered February 17, 2025

Commending no-kill animal rescues and shelters in Virginia.

Patron—Martinez

WHEREAS, since 2016, the percentage of animal rescues and shelters in Virginia committed to no-kill policies has risen from 52 to 57 percent; and

WHEREAS, during that same time period, the average save rate of animals in the Commonwealth has increased by 16 percent, representing 15,424 additional cats and dogs who have been adopted into forever homes; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, animal rescues and shelters in the Commonwealth adopted out 105,676 cats and dogs, with 72 public and private shelters saving more than 90 percent of all animals admitted to their facilities, meeting the nationally recognized benchmark for achieving no-kill status; and

WHEREAS, reaching no-kill status is only possible through the hard work of the staff members, leadership, volunteers, and the communities that support these animal rescues and shelters, combined with innovative lifesaving programs and cooperation with other stakeholders in the animal welfare sphere; and

WHEREAS, the animal rescues and shelters in the Commonwealth that achieved no-kill status in 2023 were: A Forever Home Rescue Foundation, Bath County Animal Control, Floyd County Animal Control, Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society, Greene County Animal Shelter, Homeward Trails Animal Rescue, Lee County Animal Control Services, Lunenburg County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Madison County Animal Shelter, New Kent County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Orange County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Powhatan County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Rappahannock County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Rockbridge SPCA, Rockingham Harrisonburg SPCA, Amelia County Animal Shelter, Angels Of Assisi, Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Augusta Regional SPCA, Bedford County Animal Shelter, Buchanan County Animal Shelter, Charles City County Animal Control, Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA, Chesapeake Humane Society, Clarke County Animal Control and Shelter, Colonial Heights Animal Control, Dickenson County Animal Shelter, Essex County Animal Shelter, Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Fauquier SPCA, Fluvanna SPCA, Franklin County Humane Society, Fredericksburg SPCA, Friends of Homeless Animals, Gloucester County Animal Control Shelter, and Goochland County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center; and

WHEREAS, Heritage Humane Society, Highland County Animal Control, Hopewell City Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Humane Society of Amherst County, Humane Society Of Warren County, Humane Society/SPCA of Nelson County, King Street Cats, Lake Country SPCA, Loudoun County Animal Services, Louisa County Animal Shelter, Lynchburg Humane Society, Madison-Greene Humane Society, Henry County SPCA, Middleburg Humane Foundation, Middlesex County Animal Control, Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center, Norfolk SPCA, Northumberland County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Nottoway County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Page County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Peninsula SPCA, Petersburg Animal Care and Control, Richmond Animal League, Richmond SPCA, Roanoke Valley SPCA, Scott County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Shenandoah County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Shenandoah Valley Animal Services Center, Southside SPCA, Prince Edward Animal Shelter, Spotsylvania County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Tazewell County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Virginia Beach Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, Virginia Beach SPCA, Wythe County Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter, and the Wytheville Animal Control and Public Animal Shelter also received no-kill status in 2023; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend no-kill animal rescues and shelters in Virginia for their commitment to helping animals find safe and loving homes; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to representatives of no-kill animal rescues and shelters in Virginia as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the achievements of these organizations and best wishes for their continued success.

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