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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING APRIL 30, 2025, AS "NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL DAY" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ajello,
Tanzi, Read, Shallcross Smith, Edwards, and Cortvriend
Date Introduced: May 01, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

- 1 WHEREAS, National Therapy Animal Day was created to recognize the exceptional
- 2 dogs, cats, and other animals that bring comfort, joy, and healing to those in need; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Animal-assisted therapy is based on the unique bond that exists between
- 4 human beings and animals. Dogs and cats are most commonly used in pet therapy, however, fish,
- 5 guinea pigs, horses, and other animals are also used depending on the therapeutic goals of a
- 6 person's treatment plan; and
- 7 WHEREAS, There are numerous therapeutic applications that animals can provide
- 8 including improvement in one's self-image and sense of competence, nurturing a sense of
- 9 responsibility, expressing feelings and distress via the animal and developing one's curiosity and
- 10 motivation to learn, not to mention the endless hours of fun, warmth, learning, and love; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Many animals main goal is to love and please the humans in their lives, and
- 12 often times, total strangers. Animals frequently have the innate ability to detect emotions in
- 13 people from clues which are invisible to humans and many will instinctively comfort a person
- 14 whom they sense is in distress and in need of some extra attention; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Whether professionally supervised or the casual and spontaneous interaction
- 16 between loving animals and folks in need, animal therapy is a powerful tool for the treatment and
- 17 quality of life for many individuals; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Promoting public awareness for animal therapy is an exciting and effective
- 19 pathway towards a friendlier, healthier and more peaceful world; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
2 commemorates "National Therapy Animal Day" and urges the Director of the Department of
3 Health and Human Services and all the citizens of Rhode Island to continue to appreciate,
4 promote, and advocate for the incomparably life changing and life sustaining benefits of the
5 human companion and animal bond; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of
8 Health and Human Services, Paws from the Heart Pet Therapy, and the Windwalker Humane
9 Coalition for Professional Pet Assisted Therapy.

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