

2011-J3846

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Whiskers
Animal Benevolent League of Albany, New York

WHEREAS, Whiskers Animal Benevolent League of Albany, New York, is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year of rescuing abandoned, homeless, feral, disabled, older and chronically ill cats and kittens throughout the Capital Region; and

WHEREAS, Whiskers Animal Benevolent League is a small, private, not-for-profit organization that, through its shelter and foster programs, rescues hundreds of cats and kittens each year, and provides them with a safe haven, medical care, and love, as well as an opportunity for permanent homes of their own; and

WHEREAS, Whiskers Animal Benevolent League is a completely no-kill organization, staffed entirely by volunteers who maintain its shelter, provide basic medical care, offer foster homes, and attempt to find loving, responsible homes for its many cats and kittens through its adoption programs; and

WHEREAS, Whiskers Animal Benevolent League had its beginnings in 1982, when the late Joan Duer, an avid animal lover, became concerned about the proliferation of homeless cats and kittens in the City of Albany, and opened the Whiskers Thrift Shop on Delaware Avenue to raise funds to rescue, spay and neuter stray cats; and

WHEREAS, In the years following, Joan Duer and other animal advocates joined together to open a shelter to house abandoned animals, adhering to a strict no-kill policy, while attempting to find permanent homes for the cats, and initially, some dogs, in its care; and

WHEREAS, The Whiskers Animal Benevolent League shelter, a free-roaming facility where cats generally live together uncaged, was housed in small apartments and other sites throughout Albany in its first years, and has

grown into an organization with an extensive shelter program, a thriving network of committed foster parents, wonderful partnerships with area businesses and local veterinarians, and an adoption center located in the Clifton Park Petsmart store; and

WHEREAS, Whiskers Animal Benevolent League, as part of its mission as a strictly no-kill shelter, provides a safe, loving sanctuary for cats and kittens who are feral, chronically ill, abused, disabled, infected with FIV and FeLV, and who otherwise might be at risk of being euthanized; and

WHEREAS, Whiskers Animal Benevolent League strives to find homes for cats and kittens who may not be easily adoptable to the general public, and believes that the life of each animal in its care is precious and worth saving - with a motto of "Making A Difference: One Life at a Time!"; and

WHEREAS, Whiskers Animal Benevolent League has taken in cats, pregnant mom cats, and kittens from hoarding situations, and other emergency circumstances where the lives of these animals have been placed at risk from abuse or abandonment; and

WHEREAS, Whiskers Animal Benevolent League is fortunate to enjoy the support of dozens of volunteers in its shelter and foster programs who give of their time, energy and dedication to advance the mission of this organization, as well as the support of members of the public who recognize the humanitarian work of Whiskers, as well as this organization's important role in reducing the number of stray cats and kittens in the Capital District; and

WHEREAS, Whiskers Animal Benevolent League will be celebrating its three decades of rescuing and working to find loving permanent homes for

thousands of cats and kittens at its annual Spring Gala on April 19, 2012; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Whiskers Animal Benevolent League of Albany, New York, on the

occasion of celebrating its 30th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Whiskers Animal Benevolent League.