

## 2015-K527

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare May 18, 2015, as Therapy Animal Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize an official day that is set aside to appreciate the service, companionship, loyalty, and medical benefits therapeutic animals bring to the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare May 18, 2015, as Therapy Animal Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Therapy Animal Day; and

WHEREAS, National Therapy Animal Day was created by Pet Partners to recognize all of the exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions to bring comfort and healing to those in need; it also works to raise awareness and educate the public about the significant role these animals play in enhancing the health of humans; and

WHEREAS, Therapy animals and their handlers can be found helping people of all ages in a variety of different settings including hospitals, pediatric care units, schools, and nursing homes; some of the animals used in therapy include domesticated pets, farm animals, and marine mammals; and

WHEREAS, The primary purpose of therapy animals is to provide affection and comfort; these kind and compassionate animals are most often privately owned and tend to visit facilities on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to helping people with a wide variety of problems, therapy animals can be classified into three different types: Therapeutic Visitation Animals are household pets whose owners bring them to

care facilities; Animal Assisted Therapy Animals assist physical and occupational therapists at rehabilitation centers; and Facility Therapy Animals primarily work in nursing homes for the purpose of helping patients with Alzheimer's disease and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Visits by therapy animals in an outpatient setting can provide many patients with significant reductions in pain and emotional distress; these visits have also been proven to give family members and friends of patients a sense of comfort and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, therapy animals have helped numerous war-time veterans in making the difficult transition from serving bravely in our military to returning to life in the civilian world; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those extraordinary therapy animals and their handlers who demonstrate tremendous care and compassion by bringing comfort and healing to those in need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to declare May 18, 2015, as Therapy Animal Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.