

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in recognition of its heroic and exemplary efforts on behalf of pets and their owners in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that all living creatures have value, and to recognize and appreciate the service, companionship, loyalty, unconditional love and happiness animals bring to the lives of New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those individuals and organizations who would faithfully dedicate themselves to the care and protection of animals, lauding particularly the caring, heroic acts of individuals who take prompt and appropriate action in crisis situations to assist beloved pets totally dependent on humans for their safety; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in recognition of its heroic and exemplary efforts on behalf of pets and their owners in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, When Super Storm Sandy hit Long Island, many pet owners, confronted with shelters that prohibited animals, stayed in their homes, refusing to abandon their pets; however, lacking power, and transportation, they were quickly without food and necessary items for themselves and their pets; and

WHEREAS, The Suffolk County SPCA opened three pet shelters at both the East and West ends of Long Island, providing havens for those left homeless by the storm, and enabling their pets to receive food, water, towels and blankets and veterinary services; and

WHEREAS, Staffed by Suffolk County SPCA agents, friends and volunteers, the emergency pet shelters remained open for more than a week, providing vital care to the thousands of cats, dogs, birds, horses and farm animals who were suddenly without homes; and

WHEREAS, After the worst of the storm, volunteers from the Suffolk County SPCA loaded cars, vans and the agency's MASH unit and began food drops in some of the hardest hit areas of the Island, working valiantly to ensure that no animals would be left cold or hungry; and

WHEREAS, The staff and volunteers of the Suffolk County SPCA worked hundreds of hours, often for long stretches of time without breaks, to meet the overwhelming shelter and food needs of frightened evacuees and their pets, as well as abandoned animals, even removing some animals from homes; and

WHEREAS, The Suffolk County SPCA should be meritoriously commended for the superb execution of its emergency plan; its agents and volunteers, acting with courage and dedication, saved the lives of untold numbers of animals, and sparing many pet owners the heartbreaking decision to leave their animals behind in order to save themselves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in recognition of its heroic and exemplary efforts on behalf of pets and their owners in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.