

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on April 10, 2016

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), North America's first humane society on April 10, 2016; and

WHEREAS, In 1866, after witnessing the regular beating, abuse and overworking of cart horses, Henry Bergh founded the ASPCA on the belief that protecting animals was an issue that crossed party lines and class boundaries, and made a commanding moral and legal case to protect animals that persuaded prominent leaders of the time, including members of the Rockefeller family, to support him in enacting the first anti-cruelty law in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Henry Bergh personally fought for animal welfare on New York City streets as well as the courtroom, regularly inspecting slaughter houses, working with police to close down dog fighting pits, lecturing at schools, and operating the nation's first ambulance for overworked horses that regularly collapsed from dehydration and exhaustion; and

WHEREAS, Henry Bergh's outspoken crusade for beings who have no voice inspired activists seeking to protect abused children to establish the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the first child protective agency in the world, of which Henry Bergh served as one of the still active group's first vice president; and

WHEREAS, By 1888, the year Henry Bergh died, 37 of the country's 38 states had passed animal anti-cruelty laws; and

WHEREAS, Today, the ASPCA carries on Henry Bergh's dedication to enhancing laws to protect animals in New York State and nationwide by advocating for the strongest possible protections for animals through passage of legislation and the establishment of state and federal public policies that fight animal cruelty and by providing expert legal assistance to prosecutors, law enforcement and cruelty investigators; and

WHEREAS, The ASPCA continues the legacy of Henry Bergh helping animals in crisis by responding to requests for assistance by law enforcement and emergency responders around the country, assisting with the removal of animals from peril created by natural disasters or by animal abuse; and

WHEREAS, The ASPCA is one of the nation's largest animal welfare grant makers providing support to U.S.-based nonprofit animal welfare organizations, awarding over \$93 million in grants since 2008 to nearly 2,800 animal shelters, municipal and governmental agencies, rescue groups, sanctuaries and other animal welfare organizations nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Since 2008, the ASPCA has granted over \$24 million to organizations throughout New York State in support of programs aimed at improving live release rates of shelter animals, increasing the population of animals that have been spayed or neutered, investigating and rescuing animals from cruelty and decreasing the number of animals that enter the sheltering system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on April 10, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further to urge all New Yorkers to work in their communities to improve positive outcomes for shelter animals by volunteering to foster animals and advocating for adequate resources for animal welfare programs; and be it further

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

mitted to Matthew Bershadker, President/CEO, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.