

**BY:** Senator WEIK

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 30, 2021, as Therapy Animal Day in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are 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 proclaim April 30, 2021, 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; and

**WHEREAS,** Therapy animals and their handlers can be found helping people of all ages in a variety of settings including hospitals, pediatric care units, schools, nursing homes and assisted living facilities; and

**WHEREAS,** With a goal to recognize and honor therapy animals, National Therapy Animal Day also raises awareness and educates the public about the role therapy animals play in enhancing the health and well-being of humans; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, this vital commemoration honors the thousands of dedicated handlers who volunteer their time and compassion during visits; 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,** Additionally, therapy animals have helped numerous war-time veterans in making the difficult transition from bravely serving 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 proclaim April 30, 2021, 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.