Senate Resolution No. 1921

BY: Senator TEDISCO

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 30, 2026, as Animal Advocacy Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to believe 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 30, 2026, as Animal Advocacy Day in the State of New York in conjunction with National Animal Advocacy Day; and

WHEREAS, Animals are beloved and cherished members of many of our families and play a positive role in the lives of so many of New York State's citizens; and

WHEREAS, Pets offer companionship in more than 71 million United States households, and studies have shown that companion animals can provide a variety of health benefits; and

WHEREAS, Companion animals provide comfort and assistance to seniors and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Companion animals play an important role helping police, fire departments, and search-and-rescue efforts to keep our citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, Animal abuse, cruelty, and neglect result in unnecessary pain and suffering to animals; and

WHEREAS, Violence against animals is a bridge crime that can and has led to violence against people; and

WHEREAS, To that end, in 1999, a statewide petition drive was initiated to help pass the landmark Buster's Law which created the felony category of "aggravated cruelty to animals," punishable by up to two years in prison and a $5,000 fine; prior to this bill becoming law in New York State, animal cruelty resulted in only misdemeanor penalties if any charges were imposed at all; and

WHEREAS, It is vital that we encourage empathy and compassion for our companion animals and provide a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Organizations, such as Best Friends Animal Society, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Humane World for Animals, and the Animal Welfare Institute, have all worked

tirelessly for the well-being of animals; and

WHEREAS, National Animal Advocacy Day, often recognized on April 30th alongside Animal Cruelty Prevention Month in April, stems from long-term efforts by these organizations to promote stronger humane laws and protect animal welfare, serving as a day to encourage public action, lobbying for animal rights, and recognizing the need for better protection against cruelty; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 30, 2026, as Animal Advocacy Day in the State of New York in conjunction with National Animal Advocacy Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, and leading animal advocacy organizations throughout New York State.