

**BY:** M. of A. Rosenthal

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2026, as Spay/Neuter Awareness Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness for the caretaking and well-being of our companion animals; 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 February 2026, as Spay/Neuter Awareness Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Spay/Neuter Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS,** Companion animals provide meaningful companionship, emotional support, and numerous health and social benefits to individuals and families in our community; and

**WHEREAS,** Unplanned and uncontrolled breeding of cats and dogs contributes to pet overpopulation, resulting in crowded animal shelters, increased numbers of stray animals, and the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable pets each year; and

**WHEREAS,** Spaying and neutering cats and dogs reduces the risk of certain cancers and other health problems, can decrease roaming and other nuisance behaviors, and can increase an animal's overall quality of life and longevity; and

**WHEREAS,** Spay/neuter surgery is a safe, humane, and effective method of preventing unwanted litters and is widely endorsed by veterinarians, national and local animal welfare organizations, and responsible pet guardians; and

**WHEREAS,** February has been widely recognized by communities and legislative bodies across the United States as "Spay/Neuter Awareness Month," often in coordination with "World Spay Day," to increase public awareness of the importance of spaying and neutering companion animals; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State has a dense network of shelters and veterinary providers: one recent overview notes nearly 600 animal related organizations in the state, many of which either require spay/neuter before adoption or offer subsidized surgeries, which strongly pushes overall spay/neuter rates up; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there be greater awareness of the spaying and neutering of pets to contribute to longer and healthier lives for our companion animals throughout our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2026, as Spay/Neuter Awareness Month in the State of New York; 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 to local animal shelters, rescue groups, and veterinary organizations.