**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND AND THANK PAWMETTO LIFELINE OF COLUMBIA FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE AND COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR THE HOMELESS COMPANION ANIMALS OF THE MIDLANDS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn of the diligent labors of Pawmetto Lifeline to promote responsible and compassionate care for the homeless companion animals of the Midlands; and

Whereas, Pawmetto Lifeline was created in 1999 as Project Pet, a community‑based people/pet project founded by volunteers from four local animal‑welfare organizations. Working under a shared vision, these groups combined resources to reduce Midlands pet overpopulation humanely through innovative, proactive programs; and

Whereas, for thirteen years, Pawmetto Lifeline has been a vital resource for humane care of abandoned and homeless animals and for fostering the animal‑human bond. The core purpose of Pawmetto Lifeline is to promote and practice the principle that every life is precious. Since its founding, the organization has rescued more than six thousand animals that otherwise would have been put to death; and

Whereas, clearly, the Midlands needs such an organization as Pawmetto Lifeline, as may be seen from statistics gleaned just from 2008: In that year, more than twenty‑three thousand companion animals entered the municipal animal shelters in Richland and Lexington counties, of which more than nineteen thousand were euthanized. Pawmetto Lifeline’s goal is to reduce that number to zero; and

Whereas, in partnership with the governments of Lexington and Richland counties, Pawmetto Lifeline is poised to accelerate greatly its efforts to meet that goal. Now that its new home, the Meyer‑Finlay Pet Adoption Center of Lexington and Richland Counties, is complete, the organization will be able to rescue annually an additional two thousand two hundred cats and dogs from shelters, up from its current rate of eight hundred annually; and

Whereas, Pawmetto Lifeline’s mission is to form a federation of like‑minded organizations and individuals to alleviate animal suffering; set safe and humane standards for companion pets and shelters; and educate and increase awareness of the necessity for spaying and neutering to reduce the overall number of unwanted companion pets, eventually reducing the need for euthanasia. To achieve its mission, Pawmetto Lifeline carries out a number of programs, including a spay/neuter clinic, mobile vaccine clinic, rescue program for pets scheduled for euthanasia, and education and adoption programs; and

Whereas, grateful for the dedication of the organization’s board of trustees, advisory board of directors, and volunteers, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in commending Pawmetto Lifeline for its fine work, which improves quality of life in the Midlands for both companion animals and their human friends. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend and thank Pawmetto Lifeline of Columbia for its many years of promoting responsible and compassionate care for the homeless companion animals of the Midlands.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Deloris S. Mungo, president, Pawmetto Lifeline Board of Trustees.

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