

Proclamation for National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week

Whereas the Humane Society of the United States founded National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week in 1996. They created this week to acknowledge and promote the role of animal shelters in communities across the country and to encourage the public to get acquainted with their local animal shelters to learn how they can help save the lives of animals; and

Whereas even though dogs and cats are some of the most beloved pets in the United States, pet homelessness is a huge problem in the country. There are about 70 million stray animals in the United States. Up to 8 million of these animals end up in shelters. There are 3,500 animal shelters in the country. It's at these animal shelters that pets receive a second chance. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, over 3 million shelter animals are adopted each year; and

Whereas many animal shelters are non-profit. This means they depend on donations and grants to stay open. The primary function of an animal shelter is to find a home for stray animals. They also help to reunite lost pets with their owners. Other services some animal shelters provide include animal health services, behavioral evaluations, training, pet-sitting, grooming, and humane education; and

Whereas people who work at animal shelters work tirelessly with below-average pay. It's not uncommon for them to advocate for animal rights such as safe ways to help control the pet population with education of pet spay or neuter options, making sure pet-owners have the appropriate types of identification including microchipping for pets in case they get lost.

Now therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby declares the first week of November National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week and recognizes the shelters that provide care within Hidalgo County that help bridge the gap to adoption for millions of abandoned and stray animals. This observance also acknowledges the hard-working people who support the efforts of the shelters, volunteers and those who compassionately assist in keeping pets healthy.

Approved this 2nd day of November 2021.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk