

# *Proclamation declaring February Responsible Pet Owners Month*

*Whereas* since nearly 10,000 years ago, when humans first started keeping pets, animals have had needs like ours: shelter, food and water, robust health, and most importantly, love; and

*Whereas* Responsible Pet Owners Month is observed each February to promote the welfare of our pets. We all want our pets to be happy and healthy throughout their lives. Responsible Pet Owners Month is the perfect time to determine your pet's ideal diet and exercise routine to help them live a comfortable life; and

*Whereas* Pets' emotions can include happiness, sadness or betrayal if they are not fed when we leave for too long, and joy and peace when they are loved. Responsible Pet Owners Month creates awareness that pets are not mere possessions; we have an obligation and responsibility to take diligent care of them; and

*Whereas* Responsible Pet Owners Month reminds us of the many responsibilities involved. Pet-proofing your home can help keep your companion safe from dangerous things such as prohibited foods, human medication, small toys or plants. Microchipping your pet will ensure they can be properly identified if lost. Checking the microchip annually for accuracy will help people return your pet safely. Emergencies and disasters are unexpected and having a readily available pet emergency kit, in case of evacuation, is a must. During times of non-emergencies, keeping vet appointments and play time for socialization is not to be forgotten; and

*Whereas* Responsible Pet Owners stay up to date with new trends and local or state regulations regarding pets such as the new Senate Bill 5, also known as the Safe Outdoor Act. Most pets live happy lives alongside their owners who keep them safe and give them the love and attention they need; and

*Whereas* Hidalgo County recognizes the importance of responsible pet ownership and encourages members of the community to join in the celebration of pets by participating in Paws at the Park on February 5.

*Now therefore, be it proclaimed* hereby declares the month of February as Responsible Pet Owners Month in Hidalgo County.

***Approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.***

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**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

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**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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**EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

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**EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk