



# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Therapy Animal Day, created by Pet Partners, an organization whose mission is to improve human health and well-being through the human-animal bond, has been designated as April 30 to recognize and honor therapy animals and to raise awareness and educate the public about the role therapy animals play in enhancing the health and well-being of humans; and

WHEREAS, therapy dogs are different from service animals in that they are not trained for a specific task and do not have the same legal standing as service animals; and

WHEREAS, according to UCLA Health, animal assisted therapy can, among other things, lower anxiety, increase mental stimulation, lower blood pressure, and diminish overall pain; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams make millions of visits per year in settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools and hospice; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students facing literacy challenges, and those approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Williamson County Commissioners Court designate April 30, 2022, as:

## **“National Therapy Animal Day”**

in Williamson County and encourage our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers and salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community and in communities across the nation.