



**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, is 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**, scientific research shows that interacting with therapy animals lower anxiety, reduce stress, relieve depression, increase mental stimulation, lower blood pressure, and diminish overall pain; and

**WHEREAS**, therapy animal teams in Williamson County play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

**WHEREAS**, therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students, 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, 2024, 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.

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court Members