



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The histories of animal rights and shelters have long been intertwined. It was in the 1870s that animal protectionists began to see the lives of children and animals as similarly vulnerable and in need of protection, and SPCAs and anti-cruelty laws began to be established. Though animals were defined as property, cruelty was still an offense; and

WHEREAS, The 20th century saw increased protection given to house pets such as dogs and cats, while animals that were slaughtered or working animals still received little to no protection. Dogs and cats received even more attention from the social justice movements of the 1960s and 1970s when animal welfare groups like the ASPCA focused heavily on adoption, fostering, and prevention of animal suffering; and

WHEREAS, Though there is no governmental organization in the United States to oversee animal shelter regulation nationally, there are approximately 5,000 independently operated animal shelters in the nation. Most of these shelters changed their focus in the 1990s, shifting from being temporary animal repositories to proactively helping control the homeless pet population and promoting pet adoption; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, the International Society for Animal Rights conceived International Homeless Animals Day (IHAD), which has only grown in popularity by year. ISAR offers events from dog walks to adopt-a-thons to animal blessings on IHAD, and many volunteers participate. Today, and every day, we can all be a voice for homeless animals, and help mitigate their suffering; and

WHEREAS, In the City of Fort Collins, many unhoused pet owners struggle to find housing and transportation yet show an unshakable commitment to their pets. The Street Dog Coalition, in collaboration with the City of Fort Collins, Homeward Alliance and other local agencies have been able to provide support and veterinary care to these pets and their owners.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Emily Francis, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby retroactively proclaim August 27th, as

INTERNATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS' DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 20th day of August, 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

City Clerk