



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 5/13/25

REQUESTER: Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

PRESENTER: Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-124: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NORMAN ANIMAL WELFARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, AWARDING THE 2025 NORMAN ANIMAL WELFARE VOLUNTEERISM AWARD.

BACKGROUND:

On May 23, 2016, the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee unanimously approved to establish the Norman Animal Welfare Volunteerism Award and named Erica Loftis as the inaugural recipient. The Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee seeks to promote pet adoption, education, citizen involvement and volunteer services for the Norman Animal Shelter and ensure all animals adopted at the Norman Animal Shelter are sprayed and neutered

DISCUSSION:

Deb Melser was selected by the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee as the 2025 recipient. Ms. Melser is dedicated to supporting lost and stray animals. She actively searches for lost pets, fosters animals and provides care and comfort to animals. She dedicates countless hours administering an on-line community group in reuniting lost pets with their families, provides advice on pet care and behavior, and recommendations for vet services. She scans microchips for lost pets and deceased animals. Ms. Melser is a Board Member of Earth Mother, a non-profit rescue. Recently, she spent a number of months feeding, tracking and monitoring the "Interstate Princess Dog" until her safe capture. Ms. Melser is driven by her passion for animal welfare and her desire to make a difference.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee that Deb Melser be recognized as the 2025 Volunteer of the Year.