
Declaring October 2009 as Animal Shelter Awareness Month

WHEREAS, In recognition of Council Member Dona Spring—whose tireless efforts on behalf of animals in Berkeley, whose commitment to the weak and vulnerable, whose public statements that she could not support experimentation done on animals in order that she might live—were crucial to the reform and success of our animal shelter, and

WHEREAS, For all of the abandoned, stray, lost, injured, neglected and abused animals who have passed through the Berkeley animal shelter in the last 100 years: and

WHEREAS, For the many thousands of animals who have died there; and

WHEREAS, For the thousands of cats and dogs, small mammals, reptiles and birds who have found new homes; and

WHEREAS, For the many dogs, cats and other animals who have been reunited with their owner/guardians.

WHEREAS, In recognition of the hundreds of dedicated volunteers, from young children to senior citizens, who have given of their time, their skill and their compassion; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the adopters, visitors, animal rescuers, and partner organizations who create an environment of hope in our animal shelter; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the committed and skilled animal shelter staff who are on the front lines of the battle of pet overpopulation, who deal every day with the pain and suffering caused by human neglect and the effects of economic hardship and circumstance which cause people to surrender their animals; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the efforts of Humane Commissioners, animal welfare advocates, veterinarians, and activists who have transformed the face of animal sheltering in Berkeley, and who with the support of the City Council and the commitment of staff have created a model shelter with the lowest euthanasia rate in all of California; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the businesses, organizations, foundations and individual donors who have given and continue to give to our animal shelter; of those who raise money, host events and raise awareness of our animal shelter; in recognition of the efforts of those who led the campaign for a new animal shelter; and in recognition of the fundraising efforts to support our new shelter; and

WHEREAS, Because Berkeley Animal Care Services has been honored by Maddie's Fund as part of a life saving public/private partnership with Home At Last Animal

Rescue, Fix Our Ferals and the Berkeley Humane Society, and been named the first no-kill community in California; and

WHEREAS, Because Berkeley cares about all sentient beings, be they human or companion, domestic, wild or exotic animals; and

WHEREAS, Because Berkeley believes that every companion animal should be a wanted animal and therefore supports low-cost, readily available spay and neuter through the Spay/Neuter Your Pet Program (SNYP), which has provided spay neuter surgery to over 6,000 animals since 2002; and

WHEREAS, Because through its animal shelter, Berkeley works with animal rescue groups, breed specific rescue groups, wildlife sanctuaries, and animal welfare groups across California to end pet overpopulation and to end animal abuse and neglect, and

WHEREAS, Because Dona Spring was an inspiration to everyone who believes that we are the guardians of our companion animals and not their owners.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby declares the month of October 2009 as Animal Shelter Awareness Month in the City of Berkeley.