

PROCLAMATION

STATE OF FLORIDA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TALLAHASSEE

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is consistently dedicated to the safety, health, and compassionate care of all its residents, including the companion animals that share our homes and communities, by maintaining robust anti-cruelty frameworks under Title XLVI, Chapter 828 of the Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Florida enforces some of the toughest felony penalties for animal abuse in the country, explicitly mandates humane shelter standards, protects family pets within domestic violence injunctions, and secures companion animals during state-mandated emergency evacuations; and

WHEREAS, a benchmark of a "No-Kill" community is widely recognized by achieving a 90% save rate or higher for animals entering the shelter system, a meaningful standard that reflects the successful implementation of progressive, data-driven lifesaving programs and community support; and

WHEREAS, official animal welfare proclamations signify a community's explicit desire to save more lives, serving not as a final destination, but as a vital catalyst for localized advocacy, necessary ordinance modernization, and the mobilization of increased resources to structurally lower euthanasia rates; and

WHEREAS, true statewide progress relies on empowering grassroots movements, non-profit rescue operations, municipal shelters, and dedicated local action teams, providing them with the collaborative frameworks and community-led support needed to maximize lifesaving capacity; and

WHEREAS, a bottom-up movement has already taken hold across the Sunshine State, with 13 trailblazing Florida counties, including Sumter, Manatee, Alachua, Broward, Clay, Hillsborough, and Miami-Dade, independently declaring intentions to meet or exceed the no-kill threshold of a 90% shelter animal save rate; and

WHEREAS, sustainable, long-term lifesaving outcomes require the localized implementation of community-focused best practices, including high-volume spay/neuter initiatives, robust foster networks, and strategic public-private partnerships to eliminate the use of euthanasia as a method of population control; and

WHEREAS, a unified executive vision will solidify Florida's stance on animal welfare, celebrating and accelerating the incredible work done on the ground by volunteers, rescue networks, and municipal partners to preserve the lives of healthy and treatable companion animals;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of the State of Florida, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, do hereby proclaim that the State of Florida officially recognizes and supports the:

FLORIDA STATEWIDE NO-KILL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

and encourage all municipal shelters, regional rescue networks, veterinary partners, local action teams, and agricultural stakeholders to collaborate toward achieving and sustaining the 90% animal save rate threshold, ensuring Florida communities are fully equipped to remain a beacon of safety, compassion, and freedom for both their citizens and their four-legged best friends.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed to this Proclamation at the Capitol, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE