

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 237

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 11, 2017

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman TIM EUSTACE**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman PARKER SPACE**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

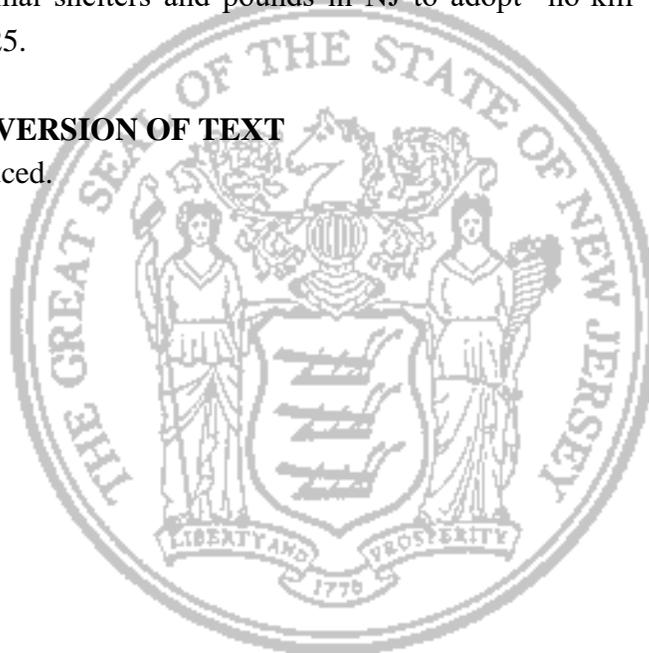
**Assemblymen McKeon and Rooney**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges animal shelters and pounds in NJ to adopt “no-kill” policies by no later than 2025.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/23/2017)

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging animal shelters and pounds in  
2 New Jersey to adopt “no-kill” policies aimed at saving the lives  
3 of all healthy cats and healthy and adoptable dogs.  
4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, The killing of healthy cats and healthy and adoptable dogs  
6 in shelters and pounds is a needless tragedy and should be  
7 eliminated whenever possible; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, Since its inception, the “no-kill” movement – led by  
9 organizations like Best Friends Animal Society – has been credited  
10 with saving the lives of millions of animals; and
- 11 **WHEREAS**, While the rate of animals killed in shelters and pounds has  
12 decreased significantly over the past decade both in New Jersey and  
13 nationwide, the routine killing of healthy cats and healthy and  
14 adoptable dogs continues as a matter of policy rather than necessity  
15 at many shelters and pounds; and
- 16 **WHEREAS**, According to Best Friends Animal Society, each year, an  
17 estimated 2 million (5,500 per day) healthy cats and healthy and  
18 adoptable dogs are killed; and
- 19 **WHEREAS**, According to the New Jersey Department of Health’s 2015  
20 Animal Intake and Disposition Survey, which only requires  
21 voluntary reporting by participating shelters, in 2015,  
22 approximately 21 percent of all cats and dogs impounded in New  
23 Jersey shelters and pounds were killed; and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, The exact rate of animals impounded, claimed, or killed in  
25 shelters and pounds is not known, because shelters and pounds are  
26 not required to report their statistics and, therefore, this voluntary,  
27 non-mandatory reporting is not verifiable; and
- 28 **WHEREAS**, Many of the pets that are killed each year are healthy or  
29 treatable pets that could be placed in homes, or feral cats that do not  
30 belong in animal shelters; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, A national survey conducted for Best Friends Animal  
32 Society revealed that almost 70% of citizens do not want kittens and  
33 cats picked up and killed; and
- 34 **WHEREAS**, The “no-kill” philosophy is the idea that every healthy cat  
35 and every healthy and adoptable dog in a shelter or pound should be  
36 saved, and that euthanasia should only be an act of mercy as a last  
37 resort for animals suffering from an irremediable illness or a  
38 physical condition causing the animal continuous and irremediable  
39 pain; and
- 40 **WHEREAS**, A shelter or pound is generally considered “no-kill” when  
41 it saves at least 90 percent of the pets it takes in; and
- 42 **WHEREAS**, “No-kill” shelters and pounds implement new and  
43 innovative programs and policies to provide alternatives to the  
44 killing of pets; and
- 45 **WHEREAS**, These policies and programs include volunteer foster care  
46 networks; comprehensive adoption programs; medical and  
47 behavioral rehabilitation programs; public education and awareness  
48 programs; feral cat trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return or release  
49 programs; animal socialization programs; and many others; and



**AR237 EUSTACE, VAINIERI HUTTLE**

1 saved, and that euthanasia should only be an act of mercy as a last  
2 resort for irremediably suffering animals. A shelter or pound is  
3 generally considered “no-kill” when it saves at least 90 percent of  
4 the pets it takes in. “No-kill” shelters and pounds implement new  
5 and innovative programs and policies to provide alternatives to the  
6 killing of pets, such as volunteer foster care networks,  
7 comprehensive adoption programs, medical and behavioral  
8 rehabilitation programs, public education and awareness programs,  
9 feral cat trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return programs, and pet  
10 socialization programs. Since its inception, the “no-kill” movement  
11 – led by organizations like Best Friends Animal Society – has been  
12 credited with saving the lives of millions of animals.

13 The citizens of this State have a right to expect that animal  
14 shelters and pounds are doing everything in their power to protect  
15 the lives of pets, including implementing “no-kill” policies. This  
16 resolution would further urge animal shelters, pounds, humane  
17 societies, and rescue organizations to participate in the New Jersey  
18 Department of Health’s annual voluntary Animal Intake and  
19 Disposition Survey.