

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 232

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates April 30 of each year as “Therapy Animal Day” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/14/2021)

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April 30 as “Therapy Animal  
2   Day” in New Jersey.

3  
4   **WHEREAS**, A therapy animal is a non-task trained animal (usually a  
5   pet) that has received specific training to interact with the public  
6   and provide comfort to a person in an institutional setting,  
7   including, but not be limited to, a hospital, mental health facility,  
8   nursing or retirement home, or treatment facility for abused  
9   children or those suffering from autism spectrum disorders; and

10   **WHEREAS**, A therapy animal is also trained to interact with the public  
11   and provide emotional support to a person who has been through a  
12   traumatic event; and

13   **WHEREAS**, Clinical studies have shown that therapy animals have a  
14   positive impact on, and help reduce recovery times for, patients in  
15   institutional settings; and

16   **WHEREAS**, In the wake of the 2012 mass shootings at Sandy Hook  
17   Elementary School, the role of therapy animals in providing  
18   emotional support to victims of violence and post-traumatic stress  
19   disorder become the subject of several media reports, and  
20   interaction with therapy dogs became an integral part of the  
21   counseling the surviving children received; and

22   **WHEREAS**, Therapy animal teams, such as those utilized by Pet  
23   Partners, interact with a variety of communities and populations  
24   including veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, elderly  
25   individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease, persons with  
26   developmental disabilities, students with literacy challenges, and  
27   individuals nearing the end of life or in the advance stages of a  
28   terminal illness; and

29   **WHEREAS**, Pet Partners is the national leader in demonstrating and  
30   promoting the health and wellness benefits of animal-assisted  
31   therapy, activities, and education; and

32   **WHEREAS**, With 10,000 registered therapy animal teams operating  
33   across the United States and making more than three million visits  
34   annually in settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and  
35   hospice care, the therapy animals who partner with human  
36   companions bring comfort and healing to those in need; and

37   **WHEREAS**, Pet Partners therapy animal teams operating in New Jersey  
38   play an essential role in improving the health and well-being of the  
39   citizens of this State who benefit both emotionally and physically  
40   from interactions with therapy animals; now, therefore,

41  
42    **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
43    *State of New Jersey:*

44  
45    1. April 30th of every year is designated as “Therapy Animal  
46    Day” in New Jersey in order to recognize Pet Partners therapy  
47    animal teams operating in New Jersey and their essential role in  
48    improving the health and well-being of the citizens of this State

1 who benefit both emotionally and physically from interactions with  
2 therapy animals.

3

4 2. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation calling  
5 upon public officials and citizens of this State to observe “Therapy  
6 Animal Day” with appropriate activities and programs.

7

8 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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13 This joint resolution designates April 30th of every year as  
14 “Therapy Animal Day” in New Jersey in order to recognize Pet  
15 Partners therapy animal teams operating in New Jersey and their  
16 essential role in improving the health and well-being of the citizens  
17 of the State who benefit both emotionally and physically from  
18 interactions with therapy animals.