

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 124

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 28, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2021)

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.