

**WHEREAS**, February is known as National Spay and Neuter Awareness month, a time to raise awareness and reflect on the importance of spaying or neutering your pets; and

**WHEREAS,** the unincorporated Harris County region and surrounding areas experience many homeless pets that can produce more than one litter during the year, contributing to an overpopulation of dogs and cats in many local shelters; and

WHEREAS, an altered pet makes for a healthy pet, and ultimately prevents the birth of unwanted animals that are either surrendered to a shelter or abandoned in neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, one of the benefits of spaying or neutering your pet is it will live a longer, healthier life; and

WHEREAS, early spaying of female dogs and cats can help protect them from some serious health problems later in life such as uterine infections and breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, neutering your male pet prevents testicular cancer and some prostate problems; and

WHEREAS, spaying or neutering your pet helps improve its behavior; and

WHEREAS, neutering a male pet can reduce roaming and mounting, spraying or marking, and aggression, if neutered at a younger age; and

WHEREAS, the cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is far less than the cost of having and caring for a litter; and

WHEREAS, Harris County Public Health's (HCPH) Harris County Pets (HCP) offers low-cost spay and neuter services for cats and dogs owned by residents in unincorporated Harris County (outside the City of Houston); and

BE IT RESOLVED that Harris County hereby designates the month of February 2023 as

## Spay and Neuter Awareness Month

in Harris County, Texas.

**It is hereby** *ORDERED* that this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of Commissioners Court this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2023.

RODNEY ELLIS, Commissioner
Precinct One

ADRIAN GARCIA, Commissioner
Precinct Two

TOM S. RAMSEY, P.E., Commissioner
Precinct Three

ATTEST:

Teneshia Hudspeth, County Clerk Harris County, T E X A S