Declaration of April 30th as "National Therapy Animal Day" in Chicago

WHEREAS, Pet Partners has designated April 30 as National Therapy Animal Day; and

WHEREAS, there are thousands of Pet Partners therapy animal teams serving in communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, scientific research shows that interacting with therapy animals can reduce stress, relieve depression, slow heart rate, lower blood pressure and strengthen the immune system; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams in the Town of Chicago play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond; and

WHEREAS, therapy animal teams interact with a variety of people in our community including veterans, seniors, patients, students, and those approaching end of life; and

WHEREAS, these exceptional therapy animals who partner with their human companions bring comfort and healing to those in need; and

WHEREAS, we encourage more animal lovers to consider becoming Pet Partners volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits.

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council, assembled here on this 17th day of April, 2024, declare April 30th as "National Therapy Animal Day." Further, we publicly salute the service of therapy animal teams in our community and in communities across the nation, and encourage our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be prepared and presented to Pet Partners as a symbol of our esteem and respect.

Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth Alderwoman, 48th Ward