

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1517 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, O'BRIEN, K. BOYLE, SWANGER,
W. KELLER, MCNEILL, FRANKEL, V. BROWN, BIZZARRO, M. DALEY,
READSHAW, WHITE AND COHEN, JUNE 11, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 11, 2013

AN ACT

1 Designating the shelter pet as the official pet of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 62% of all households in the United
4 States have a pet; and

5 WHEREAS, About 78.2 million dogs and about 86.4 million cats
6 are owned in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, The growing pet population continues to be a problem
8 in this Commonwealth and across the nation, placing an
9 increasing strain on local animal shelters; and

10 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 3,500 animal shelters across
11 the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately six million to eight million companion
13 animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year; and

14 WHEREAS, An estimated 2.7 million healthy, adoptable cats and
15 dogs are euthanized by shelters each year; and

16 WHEREAS, Nearly 750,000 dogs and cats classified as
17 unadoptable are euthanized annually for reasons such as illness,

1 aggression and owner request; and

2 WHEREAS, Nationally, 21% of owned dogs and cats are adopted
3 from an animal shelter; and

4 WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of dogs who enter local shelters
5 are purebred; and

6 WHEREAS, Most shelters perform health examinations and give
7 vaccinations to animals when they arrive, and most spay or
8 neuter them before being adopted; and

9 WHEREAS, Adopting a pet from an animal shelter is less
10 expensive than buying a pet at a pet store or through a breeder;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The number of euthanized animals could be reduced
13 dramatically if more people adopted pets instead of buying them.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. Official State Pet.

17 The shelter pet is hereby designated as the official pet of
18 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

19 Section 2. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect immediately.