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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 428 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY T. DAVIS, SHUSTERMAN, HILL-EVANS, KORTZ,  
DONATUCCI, KIRKLAND, HENNESSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, BURNS, KINSEY,  
DIGIROLAMO, READSHAW, MILLARD, McCLINTON, WEBSTER, HEFFLEY,  
LONGIETTI, McNEILL, COMMITTA, ULLMAN, WILLIAMS AND  
CALTAGIRONE, JUNE 25, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 25, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating July 1, 2019, as "Fireworks and Animal Anxiety  
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Research has shown that pet ownership provides  
4 numerous mental and physical health benefits for individuals;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, In a 2016 study, nearly 75% of pet owners reported  
7 improvements in mental health from pet ownership; and

8 WHEREAS, Like their owners, dogs, cats and other household  
9 pets may also suffer from a variety of mental health conditions,  
10 including anxiety; and

11 WHEREAS, Sources of fear, anxiety and stress for pets may  
12 include past trauma, separation from their owner, social  
13 situations involving humans or other animals and loud noises,  
14 including thunder and fireworks; and

15 WHEREAS, The onset of sensitivity to loud noises and anxiety  
16 in general in older pets may be a sign that the animal is

1 experiencing pain; and

2 WHEREAS, According to a recent study published in the Journal  
3 of Veterinary Behavior, approximately 39% of dogs suffer from  
4 noise sensitivity; and

5 WHEREAS, Symptoms of anxiety in pets may be difficult to  
6 recognize or may be confused with other behavioral problems; and

7 WHEREAS, Symptoms of anxiety in dogs may include increased  
8 salivation, decreased activity, excessive barking, hiding and  
9 aggression; and

10 WHEREAS, Symptoms of anxiety in cats may include excessive  
11 grooming, urine spraying, excessive vocalization, altered  
12 appetite, not using the litter box and changes in activity; and

13 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recently expanded access to  
14 consumer fireworks so it is more important than ever that pet  
15 owners take precautions to keep their pets safe and secure as  
16 the Independence Day holiday approaches; and

17 WHEREAS, Pet owners can take a variety of steps to soothe  
18 their animals during fireworks displays and other stressful  
19 situations, including providing sufficient exercise during the  
20 day, creating safe interior spaces and utilizing white noise  
21 such as a loud fan or a radio; and

22 WHEREAS, Pets provide us with unconditional love, affection  
23 and companionship so it is important that we prioritize their  
24 well-being; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate July 1,  
26 2019, as "Fireworks and Animal Anxiety Awareness Day" in  
27 Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That pet owners throughout this Commonwealth  
29 consider the mental and emotional well-being of their animals  
30 during Independence Day celebrations.