

**(DRAFT – 7 SIGNATURES IN 2025)**

**NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL DAY**

- 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 Pinellas County play an essential role in improving human health and well-being through the human-animal bond. We encourage our citizens to celebrate our therapy animals and their human handlers; 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 pet owners to consider becoming Pet Partners volunteers to help our community by creating greater access to meaningful therapy animal visits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that April 30, 2026, be recognized as:

**NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL DAY**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** we have set our hands and caused the seal of Pinellas County, Florida, to be affixed this **XXth** day of April 2026.