

ANIMAL FRIENDS WEEK

WHEREAS: Cats, dogs and other domesticated animals provide companionship and comfort to many Georgians. Pets are very much a part of our families and make a significant contribution to our overall well-being; and

WHEREAS: Service animals and their handlers play a significant role in helping people in a variety of ways, from search and rescue and security, to assisting the blind and disabled live more independent lives. The rapport between a handler or owner and their animal can also provide great love and value to both; and

WHEREAS: Responsible pet ownership involves many aspects. Owners should carefully consider the temperament and type of pet that works best for them before adopting. Animal adoption requires a commitment of time, energy and money to meet all the pet's needs throughout its lifetime. Spaying and neutering is essential to control animal population and prevent unwanted pets; and

WHEREAS: Animal Friends Week provides an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the importance of Georgia's animals and the people who provide them love, care, support and training; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 10-16, 2010 as ANIMAL FRIENDS WEEK in Georgia and commend Georgia's animal shelters, veterinarians, pet food suppliers, trainers and rescue groups for the financial and emotional support they give to discarded animals and urge our citizens to support them in their efforts.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 3rd day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand ten.