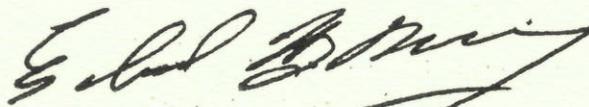


PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** Seattle is nationally known as a pet-loving city where the number of dog and cat households outnumber those with kids; and
- WHEREAS,** due to a lack of critical resources and public awareness, humane societies and animal shelters across the nation have little choice but to humanely euthanize more than 2 million dogs, cats, rabbits and other animals each year, many of whom are otherwise healthy and adoptable; and
- WHEREAS,** spaying and neutering is a proven effective and humane way to save animals' lives, by dramatically reducing the overpopulation of pets and feral cats and the number of animals for whom resources are not available; and
- WHEREAS,** most people support spaying and neutering, but affordable services are out of reach for many pet owners; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1978 the citizens of Seattle were thought-leaders by recognizing the importance of spaying and neutering and approving an initiative to create a municipally run and funded low-cost spay and neuter clinic for Seattle pets; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seattle Animal Shelter Spay and Neuter Clinic opened its doors in 1982 and has proven itself to be a wise investment in savings animals' lives and taxpayer dollars; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1982, 18,401 live animals were taken in by the Seattle Animal Shelter and 8,320 of those animals were euthanized. Five years later, with its low cost spay/neuter clinic in place, Seattle Animal Shelter intakes were reduced by 33 percent and the euthanasia rate reduced by 50 percent; and
- WHEREAS,** 900 spay and neuter surgeries were completed in 2015 in the Puget Sound region as a result of "World Spay Day" efforts by veterinarians, animal welfare organizations and private citizens, and they have joined together again for "World Spay Day 2016;"

*NOW, THEREFORE I, EDWARD B. MURRAY, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,
FEBURARY 23, 2016, TO BE*

World Spay and Neuter Day



Mayor Edward B. Murray
City of Seattle

