

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 30, 2023 AS  
NATIONAL ADOPT A SHELTER PET DAY**

**WHEREAS**, as of 2017-2018, 63.5% of households in the State owned a pet, with 43.8% of households owning a cat and 35.9% of households owning a dog; and

**WHEREAS**, pets give individuals love, companionship and comfort, encourage outdoor exercise and help to build social connections; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 6,000,000 pets end up homeless every year in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 143 animal shelters and animal rescue organizations in the State, whose organizers and employees work tirelessly to rehome and care for homeless, abandoned, abused and rescued animals; and

**WHEREAS**, animal shelters and animal rescue organizations cannot operate without the help of volunteers who provide support for homeless pets through donations of time, goods and funds; and

**WHEREAS**, animal shelters and animal rescue organizations work with law enforcement agencies, veterinarians and other community organizations to find a home for every pet, encourage responsible pet ownership, educate the public on the proper care and well-being of animals, devote personal time and resources in helping to rescue animals, reunite families with lost pets and help to protect the welfare of helpless animals; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 30, 2023 as National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day and encourage all citizens of the State to join in supporting, volunteering or adopting a pet from a local animal shelter or animal rescue organization.