STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Mississippi Legislature passed Senate Bill 2658, amending the *Mississippi Dog and Cat Pet Protection Law of 2011*, to provide further protection for domesticated dogs and cats, as these are the animals most often serving as the loyal and beloved pets of the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, Mississippians care for their beloved pets, whether household pets, companions, hunting dogs, protection, or, other four-legged family member; and

WHEREAS, many loving and healthy animals in shelters and rescues throughout Mississippi are waiting for homes, and many Mississippi shelters implement proven programs and policies to provide alternatives to the unnecessary killing of dogs and cats; and

WHEREAS, pet adoption provides many dogs and cats a second chance at life, helps reduce the strain on overcrowded shelters, promotes pet adoption, supports animal welfare and encourages responsible pet ownership within the community; and

WHEREAS, "No-Kill" is a community philosophy and commitment to saving every dog and cat in a shelter who can be saved and where at least 90% of the companion animals that enter its facilities will leave alive (https://www.nokillfacts.com); and

WHEREAS, Mississippi's animal shelters can achieve a 90% save rate if more Mississippians seeking a pet choose to adopt from a shelter rather than to purchase, which would make Mississippi the largest state to date with a save rate over 90%; and

WHEREAS, together Mississippians can work to achieve "No-Kill" in Mississippi in 2025, and animal shelters can help achieve this by encouraging and implementing lifesaving programs such as foster care networks; adoption programs; medical and behavioral programs; public education and awareness programs; community cat traps, neuter, vaccinate, and return programs; and animal socialization programs to prioritize lifesaving.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, as Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim January as

Mississippi Loves Shelter Animals Month

in Mississippi, and call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 13TH day of December, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth.

Tate Reeves

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR