Whereas every year Oregon animal shelters take in tens of thousands of homeless dogs and cats; and

Whereas an army of dedicated shelter staff, volunteers, animal behaviorists and veterinarians work hard to ready these dogs and cats for a second chance at finding their permanent home; and

Whereas Oregonians open their hearts and adopt thousands of rescued shelter dogs and cats every year; and

Whereas shelter dogs and cats, like Oregonians, are renowned for their resilience, endurance and ability to overcome adversity; and

Whereas many shelter dogs and cats, like many Oregonians, have come through unimaginable hardship but look to the future with hope and strength; and

Whereas in the diversity of shelter dogs and cats, which are of every shape and size and from every background, Oregonians see a reflection of themselves; and

Whereas because shelter dogs and cats embody all breeds, as Oregon’s state pet they would represent the choice of all dog and cat lovers in this state; and

Whereas like Oregonians, shelter dogs and cats are eager to leave their indoor confines and join their friends in the freedom, beauty and adventure of Oregon’s great outdoors; and

Whereas Oregon is the land of the second chance, something every shelter dog or cat deserves; and

Whereas shelter dogs and cats remind us that second chances are worth it; and

Whereas Oregonians know that adopting a shelter dog or cat rescues two lives at once; and

Whereas like Oregonians, shelter dogs and cats are optimists, knowing that a bright future waits ahead; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, acknowledge Oregon’s connection to shelter dogs and cats and designate rescued shelter dogs and cats as the official pet of the State of Oregon.

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