

## Proclamation

- **WHEREAS,** more than 6 million pets end up homeless every year in the United States; and
- **WHEREAS,** Merced SPCA was founded in 1969 as an organization to oversee the ethical treatment of farm animals in Merced County; and
- **WHEREAS,** the Merced SPCA continues to provide care to over 60 colonies of Merced's homeless and abandoned animals; and
- **WHEREAS,** Merced SPCA's Trap, Neuter and Return program prevented the births of over 22,500 unwanted kittens in 2023 and contributed to the reduction of the animal shelter's euthanasia rate; and
- **WHEREAS,** Merced SPCA's volunteers support Merced's homeless pets through donations of time and funds; and
- **WHEREAS,** the Merced SPCA has rescued hundreds of animals and found loving homes for them; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew Serratto, Mayor** of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim that in honor of National Pet month, that the City of Merced recognizes the Merced SPCA as a valued community organization that tirelessly advocates for the protection, compassionate care, and respect for Merced's homeless animals.

Signed this 15 <sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.
Matthew Serratto, Mayor of Merced