



TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council **Date:** August 25, 2015

From: Gina Whiteside, Animal Services Manager **Item No:** 8

Subject: PETS AND PATRIOTS MONTH

T.M. Approval: _____ **Budgeted Item:** Yes No N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Town Council adopt Resolution No. 2015-34, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley, declaring September 2015 as Pets and Patriots Month.

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, Congress designated September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. Traditionally, Apple Valley Animal Services (AVAS) has supported this effort by providing volunteers with opportunities to serve animals in our community throughout the year and during our annual Pet Fair in September. This year, the Paws n' Claws Pet Fair has been moved to October to take advantage of the cooler weather. This frees up September for other activities that can highlight the needs of shelter animals and the bond pets share with their humans.

During September 2015, AVAS would like to recognize patriots within the community as a tribute to September 11th and honor the American patriotism that evolved following the tragedy of that event. Of course, we believe that the greatest healing power is the love of a pet. Pets have a way of providing unconditional love, companionship and sense of personal value. Therefore, AVAS is requesting that the Town Council declare the Month of September 2015 as Pets and Patriots Month. Staff will recognize "Apple Valley Patriots", including veterans, first responders, politicians, and everyday volunteers that have a bond with animals and share it with the public.

Staff will also hold various community events to help residents prepare for emergencies. Disaster Preparedness and/or Pet Safety Events will be a proactive approach to planning and preparing for potential emergencies. During the month of September, AVAS will educate the community regarding the Town of Apple Valley's Animal Emergency Evacuation and Shelter Plan. The Town's Animal Emergency Evacuation and Shelter Plan, establishes a coordinated and effective response to the needs of animals impacted by an emergency or disaster in the Town of Apple Valley and surrounding areas.

Disasters are often unannounced. They can take pet owners by surprise and the best way to keep family pets safe is to prepare for emergencies in advance. It is vital that Apple Valley Animal Services and the pet owners within our community prepare for disasters, both to protect the animals housed in our shelter and residing within the Town.

SUMMARY:

Pets and Patriots Month is a way to remember and reflect on 9-11, recognize patriots and raise awareness of preparing for an emergency to effectively help family pets. In addition to recognizing patriots within our community, AVAS will work with pet owners to plan and completely stock an emergency kit for themselves and their pets. During the month of September, visitors to the shelter will receive or have access to free and discounted items such as pet tags, microchips, manual can openers, disposable cat litter pans, disposable food serving trays, and other items that will help them provide safety for their pets during an emergency

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENT:

1. Resolution No. 2015-34



RESOLUTION NO. 2015-34

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING SEPTEMBER
2015 AS PETS AND PATRIOTS MONTH**

WHEREAS, in 2009, Congress designated September 11th as a National Day of Services and Remembrance, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Apple Valley would like to recognize patriots within the community as a tribute to September 11th and honor American patriotism during the month of September 2015, and

WHEREAS, Disaster and emergency preparedness and response are important issues to the Town of Apple Valley, and

WHEREAS, Animals are impacted by the same disasters and emergencies as humans - natural, manmade, large, and small, and

WHEREAS, Pet owners play an important role in promoting and aiding preparedness efforts, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Apple Valley Town Council encourages and supports local efforts to help pet owners with "all hazards / all species" preparedness for disasters and emergencies involving animals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Declares the Month of September 2015 as Pets and Patriots Month.

Section 2. The Mayor of Apple Valley shall execute said resolution by his signature on behalf of the Town Council.

Section 3. The Town Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** by the Town Council, of the Town of Apple Valley this 25th day of August, 2015.

Larry Cusack, Mayor

ATTEST:

La Vonda M. Pearson, Town Clerk