

2018 -- H 8069

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LC005435
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

CONGRATULATING DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, A NONPROFIT ANIMAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Introduced By: Representatives Lima, Mattiello, Shekarchi, Serpa, and Winfield

Date Introduced: April 10, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Dennis and Patricia Tabella, inspired by the good works of Cleveland
2 Armory's group, the Fund for Animals in New York, and a childhood cat named Wishy, began a
3 40 year journey of caring for and defending the rights of animals. In April of 1978, they founded
4 Defenders of Animals, a non-profit organization whose mission statement is "To defend the
5 inalienable rights of both companion animals and wildlife through education, legal and legislative
6 activism"; and

7 WHEREAS, Defenders of Animals has spearheaded the humane movement in the State
8 of Rhode Island. Through the tireless perseverance of its founders, Dennis and Patricia Tabella,
9 countless dedicated members, and dedicated legislators, the organization fought for 20 years to
10 end the barbaric practice of killing animals by using carbon monoxide. They succeeded on July
11 13, 2005, and in accomplishing this monumental goal, they have spared dogs and cats from
12 tortuous deaths. In addition, Defenders of Animals contributed to the passage of numerous pieces
13 of legislation such as the Puppy Lemon Law, Dog Protection Bill and Cat Permit Program; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the last 40 years, Defenders of Animals, without compensation, has
15 advocated for the rights of both wild and domesticated creatures. Such advocacy involved:
16 helping to rescue Fanny the elephant, who was chained to a windowless barn at the Slater Park
17 Zoo; ending illegal practices such as jacklighting deer on Block Island; snapping the necks of
18 female swans in Middletown; and importing snowshoe hares from Canada for the purposes of
19 canned hunting and geese hunting. Other measures were taken to stop the killing of mourning

1 doves, prevent the destruction of the state's otters, and end the annual practice of hunting sharks,
2 antelope and raccoons. Additionally, Defenders of Animals brought to light the cruelty of leghold
3 traps which injured innocent creatures including Gideon, a cat who was featured on NBC/TV 10
4 after having his leg amputated, and Whitey the cat who almost had his tail amputated due to a
5 leghold trap; and

6 WHEREAS, Defenders of Animals offers rewards of up to \$2,000 for information
7 leading to the apprehension and conviction of persons who commit crimes of cruelty including
8 the clubbing and stabbing of three deer off Patience Island, poisoning cats in Bristol, leaving a
9 beagle in its cage to starve to death in North Kingstown, and an oil-soaked cat being burned in
10 Ashaway; and

11 WHEREAS, The US Fish and Wildlife Service consulted with Defenders of Animals on
12 the master plan for Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge in South Kingstown which resulted in
13 the protection of the piping plover and other wildlife; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1979, Defenders of Animals was awarded a contract to operate a no-kill
15 shelter at the East Providence Animal Shelter, which resulted in more than 1,000 dogs and cats
16 finding homes, and no healthy pets having to be destroyed; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to the previously mentioned acts of compassion, Defenders of
18 Animals dedicates the majority of its resources to placing homeless pets in loving homes and
19 eliminating the reproduction of homeless cats and dogs by bringing in spay/neuter veterinary
20 services to communities statewide at low or no cost to pet owners; and

21 WHEREAS, Defenders of Animals seeks to keep the plight of animals in the public eye
22 and celebrate the souls of all innocent creatures by holding annual events such as the Homeless
23 Animals' Day and an annual candlelight vigil; now, therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
25 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Defenders of Animals and honors its founders
26 Dennis and Patricia Tabella for 40 years of volunteerism and personal sacrifice on behalf of
27 innocent creatures; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
29 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Defenders of Animals' founders Dennis and
30 Patricia Tabella.

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