

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** pets provide companionship to more than 71,000,000 households in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** humane societies and animal shelters have to put down more than four million cats, dogs, rabbits and other animals each year, many of whom are healthy and adoptable, due to a lack of critical resources and public awareness; and
- WHEREAS,** this tragic overpopulation of pets costs citizens and taxpayers of this country millions of dollars annually through animal service programs aimed at coping with the millions of homeless animals; and
- WHEREAS,** spaying and neutering has been shown to dramatically reduce the overpopulation of pets and feral cats, proving to be a wise investment in saving animal lives and taxpayer dollars; and
- WHEREAS,** veterinarians, national and local animal protection organizations, and private citizens worked together to ensure the spaying or neutering of more than 48,000 pets and feral cats through "Spay Day™" in the United States in 2011; and
- WHEREAS,** veterinarians, national and local animal protection organizations, and private citizens have joined together again to advocate the spaying and neutering of pets and feral cats on "Spay Day™ 2012":

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim February, 2012 as

SPAY/NEUTER MONTH

AND, I further proclaim February 28, 2012 as

SPAY DAY

in Vermont and call upon all citizens to join in this observation by having their own pets spayed or neutered.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 30th day of January, A.D. 2012



/S/
Peter Shumlin
Governor