

No. R-182. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rutland County Humane Society on its 60th anniversary.

(H.C.R.149)

Offered by: Representatives Shaw of Pittsford, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cupoli of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Haas of Rochester, Harrison of Chittenden, Helm of Fair Haven, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, McCoy of Poultney, Nicoll of Ludlow, Norris of Shoreham, Notte of Rutland City, Potter of Clarendon, Sullivan of Dorset, and Terenzini of Rutland Town

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Hooker, and McNeil

Whereas, in the late 1950s, two Rutland County women, Ellen Hollrock Porter and Olive Smith, were worried about the many stray animals that were locally present, and they personally cared for some of these animals, and

Whereas, these women brought together a group of individuals to discuss the establishment of a local humane society, and

Whereas, a Pittsford farmer, Ed Wheeler, served as the incipient organization's first humane agent, and before the construction of a dedicated facility, his farm was home to the original shelter, and

Whereas, on April 29, 1959, this informal group took an important institutional step, incorporating as the Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS), and

Whereas, the organization purchased land from the Stevens Farm in Pittsford for a new shelter, and

Whereas, in October 1966, the RCHS broke ground for the shelter, which cost \$45,000 to build and was opened in October 1967, and

Whereas, in 1975, the RCHS added a stable to the shelter for housing large animals, and

Whereas, improvements to the RCHS shelter, both in 1998 and later in 2009, upgraded the facility's administrative operations, introduced higher health and safety standards, and offered more comfortable accommodations for the animals, and

Whereas, since its establishment, the RCHS has assisted over 113,000 animals of various species, including dogs, cats, guinea pigs, and birds, and in the organization's early years, it also worked with skunks, loons, fawns, goats, and horses, and

Whereas, in addition to sheltering animals, the RCHS has conducted ancillary programs, including dog training, Junior Humane Society, neutering and spaying, pet adoption, pet therapy, and fundraising and membership activities, and

Whereas, since its founding, broad community support has enabled the RCHS to fulfill its mission of caring for animals in Rutland County, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Rutland County Humane Society on its 60th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to RCHS Executive Director Beth Saradarian.