

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, pets provide companionship to 68% of U.S. households and 71% of Vermont households; and

WHEREAS, nearly 3 million healthy and adoptable cats and dogs are put down in animal shelters each year due to lack of critical resources and public awareness; and

WHEREAS, nearly 90% of pets living in poverty and 98% of community (feral and stray) cats are unaltered; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering has been shown to dramatically reduce the number of animals who are put down in animal shelters; and

WHEREAS, programs exist to assist with the cost of spaying and neutering pets living in poverty and community cats; and

WHEREAS, veterinarians, national and local animal protection organizations, and private citizens worked together to ensure the spaying and neutering of more than 70,000 pets and community cats through “World Spay Day” in the United States and throughout the world in 2015; 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 community cats on “World Spay Day.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim February 2016 as

SPAY/ NEUTER MONTH

in Vermont and encourage citizens to have their pets spayed and neutered.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 26th day of January, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor