



## 2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 91

October 27, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives DEXTER, SMITH, BERCEAU, PASCH, TURNER, ZIGMUNT and STEINBRINK, cosponsored by Senators KREITLOW, CARPENTER and LEHMAN. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** declaring October to be Adopt a Shelter Pet Month.

2             Whereas, declaring the month of October to be Adopt a Shelter Pet Month in  
3     Wisconsin will encourage pet adoption at local animal shelters and raise awareness  
4     of the strain felt by local animal shelters because of the faltering economy and an  
5     overpopulation of animals, including dogs, cats, pet birds, and small reptiles; and

6             Whereas, many of these animals are euthanized because they are not reclaimed  
7     by their owners or adopted by new owners; and

8             Whereas, young, healthy, and friendly animals are often euthanized simply  
9     because there are not enough good homes for them, making it more important than  
10    ever to help local animal shelters by adopting a pet; and

11            Whereas, pet ownership has been shown to promote a healthy lifestyle by  
12    encouraging exercise and socialization; and

13            Whereas, studies indicate that children who interact with pets have higher  
14    self-esteem and enhanced social skills, and can cope better with their emotions; and

1           Whereas, adopting a pet from a shelter and caring for that animal for the rest  
2 of its life is a responsible way to help reduce animal shelter overcrowding; and

3           Whereas, Wisconsin and the nation have an enormous problem with animal  
4 overpopulation, a problem that worsens as the economy declines; and

5           Whereas, shelter animals are usually sterilized prior to being released to new  
6 owners, thus reducing the problem of overpopulation; and

7           Whereas, state and local budget reductions have the potential to increase the  
8 strain on local animal shelter systems, threatening the lives of thousands of animals;  
9 and

10          Whereas, adopting pets from a local animal shelter is one way the people of  
11 Wisconsin can make a difference not only in their own lives, but also in the lives of  
12 animals in need; now, therefore, be it

13           ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the  
14 Wisconsin legislature declare the month of October to be Adopt a Shelter Pet Month,  
15 encouraging the people of Wisconsin to save lives by adopting animals from their  
16 local animal shelters.

17                                   **(END)**