

# PROCLAMATION

## HONORING “FOR THE LOVE OF PAWS” SENIOR PET SANCTUARY

**WHEREAS**, For The Love Of Paws Senior Pet Sanctuary traces its history to Jessica Pankiewicz and her husband, Ted, their mutual love of animals, and the many volunteer hours they devoted to pet rescue efforts in Indian River County; and

**WHEREAS**, For The Love Of Paws was launched in June of 2014, after Jessica’s sudden and tragic passing, as a memorial to her dream of operating a non-profit pet rescue service; and

**WHEREAS**, the staff originally worked out of a garage, bagging and distributing pet food for the Indian River County Senior Resource’s Meals On Wheels Program and fostering pets when their senior owners could no longer care for them until a permanent home could be found; and

**WHEREAS**, For The Love Of Paws has expanded multiple times to support their growing efforts, earning the Indian River County/Vero Beach Humane Society's 2016 Joan G. Carlson Animal Protection Award and 211 Community Helpline’s 2019 Animal Welfare Organization of the Year Award; and

**WHEREAS**, For The Love Of Paws currently operates two fixed-location distribution centers providing pet food to more than 18 food pantries; employs two mobile pet food trucks that allocate over 10,000 pounds per month of free pet food to people in need; and partners with the Treasure Coast Food Bank to support the USDA Senior Citizen Supplemental Food Program by delivering both “people food” and pet food to residents below the poverty level; and

**WHEREAS**, For The Love Of Paws has continued to expand its positive impact within the community, recently donating 30 emergency pet oxygen kits to Indian River Fire Rescue and Emergency Services when it was found they lacked that equipment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that, since 2014, For The Love Of Paws Senior Pet Sanctuary has provided compassionate and essential services to the senior citizen population of Indian River County and their pets, and that the organization is a worthy manifestation of the dream of its founder, Jessica Pankiewicz.

Adopted this 12th day of January, 2021.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

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Peter D. O’Bryan, Vice Chairman

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