

1 [Spay Day - February 24, 2015]

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3 **Resolution supporting effective and humane ways to save animals' lives, and**
4 **recognizing February 24, 2015, as Spay Day in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Pets provide companionship to approximately 79 million U.S. households,
7 according to the 2012 United States Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook; and

8 WHEREAS, Based on information provided by the National Council on Pet Population
9 Study and Policy, at least 6 million often young, healthy, friendly, and adoptable cats and dogs
10 enter shelters each year; and

11 WHEREAS, Nationwide, less than 2% of cats and only 15 to 20% of dogs that enter
12 animal shelters are reunited with their owners; and

13 WHEREAS, Of those animals that enter shelters, 56% of dogs and 71% of cats are
14 euthanized due to a lack of critical resources and public awareness; and

15 WHEREAS, The Humane Society of the United States and the American Veterinary
16 Medical Association found that nearly 90% of animals living in poverty and 98% of community
17 (feral and stray) cats are unaltered; and

18 WHEREAS, Spaying and neutering has been shown to dramatically reduce the number
19 of animals that die each year due to abandonment, neglect, abuse, starvation, cruelty or
20 euthanasia in animal shelters; and

21 WHEREAS, According to the California Animal Control Directors Association, the cost
22 to California government and nonprofit agencies of handling and euthanizing discarded
23 animals is estimated to approach one-quarter of \$1,000,000,000 per year; and

24 WHEREAS, Spaying and neutering dogs and cats help solve this tragic and costly
25 problem by reducing the number of dogs and cats that end up in shelters; and

1 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the State of California that animal shelters should
2 aggressively promote spay and neuter programs to reduce pet overpopulation; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco has consistently led the country in protecting and saving
4 the lives of homeless and companion animals; and

5 WHEREAS, The 1994 adoption pact signed between San Francisco Animal Care &
6 Control (ACC) and the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
7 (SFSPCA) helped San Francisco become the first No-Kill city in America; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2013, the SFSPCA reported the live release rate for the entire City of
9 San Francisco increased from 87% to 91%, making San Francisco the only major city to save
10 more than 90% of its homeless animals; and

11 WHEREAS, Veterinarians, national and local animal protection organizations, and
12 private citizens have worked together to ensure the spaying or neutering of pets and
13 community cats through “Spay Day” in the United States and throughout the world since 1994;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Veterinarians, national and local animal protection organizations, and
16 private citizens have joined together again to advocate for the spaying or neutering of pets
17 and community cats on “Spay Day 2015”; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes February 24,
19 2015 as “Spay Day”; and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City further urges San Francisco veterinarians to
21 work with animal shelters and rescue groups to provide accessible spay and neuter services
22 on a regular basis.