

By: Castro

H.C.R. No. 108

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas has traditionally recognized a
2 variety of official state symbols as tangible representations of
3 the proud spirit and heritage of our state; and

4 WHEREAS, Like the Texas longhorn, the Blue Lacy is a Texas
5 original; the only dog breed to have originated in this state, Lacys
6 are named for brothers George, Ewin, Frank, and Harry Lacy, who
7 moved to Texas from Kentucky in 1858 and settled in the area of
8 Burnet County; and

9 WHEREAS, The Lacy family bred cattle and hogs, so it was
10 natural that they would also breed dogs to work them; the family is
11 said to have used greyhound, scenthound, and coyote stock in
12 creating the animal that took their name; and

13 WHEREAS, For a hundred years, Blue Lacys were a common
14 fixture on ranches in the Southwest, where it was said that one such
15 dog could do the work of five cowboys; intelligent, energetic,
16 fast, eager to work, and easy to train and handle, Lacys herded
17 cattle, hogs, and chickens, and also served as droving and hunting
18 dogs; and

19 WHEREAS, With the declining use of working dogs on ranches,
20 Lacys almost disappeared as a breed; since 1975, however, there has
21 been a dedicated effort to save them, and their numbers now total
22 more than a thousand; most registered Lacys are currently bred in
23 Texas and sold to residents of the state; and

24 WHEREAS, While these gentle, versatile dogs continue to be

1 used on ranches, they are also becoming highly prized again as
2 hunting dogs and are proving valuable, as well, in search and rescue
3 work, owing to their keen scent-trailing ability; in addition,
4 their easygoing way with children, their aptitude for jogging,
5 agility courses, and games of Frisbee, and their suitability as
6 watch dogs are all contributing to their growing popularity as
7 family pets; and

8 WHEREAS, A medium-sized dog with a short, smooth, sleek coat,
9 the Lacy stands from 18 to 25 inches tall when full-grown and weighs
10 approximately 30 to 50 pounds; all Lacys carry a rare blue-color
11 gene, even though they are divided into three color
12 classifications: blue, red, and tri-color; and

13 WHEREAS, Lacys are recognized and registered through the
14 National Kennel Club, Continental Kennel Club, Universal Kennel
15 International, Lacy Game Dog Registry, Texas Lacy Game Dog
16 Association, and American Pet Registry, Inc.; and

17 WHEREAS, Along with its place of origin and its ranching
18 pedigree, this companionable dog boasts yet another association
19 with the State of Texas: in the 1880s, the Lacys were one of three
20 families who donated granite from Granite Mountain for the building
21 of the new State Capitol; and

22 WHEREAS, The Blue Lacy is a Texas native, a working dog bred
23 to play an essential role in ranch operations, at a time when
24 ranches themselves became one of the iconic Texas symbols, and a dog
25 that has more than pulled its weight on many a Texas spread; this
26 proud heritage assuredly gives the Lacy a unique and powerful claim
27 of its own to represent the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
2 hereby designate the Blue Lacy as the official State Dog Breed of
3 Texas.