

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 267

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the staff and volunteers of the Austin Dog Alliance for their commitment to improving lives in Central Texas; and

WHEREAS, Since 2006, the Austin Dog Alliance has been promoting the health and wellness of Central Texas families and individuals through therapeutic programs that incorporate the powerful connection between dogs and humans; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that physical contact with pets has many benefits for humans, including lowered blood pressure, improved survival rates for heart attack victims, and the release of pain-relieving endorphins in the body; the Austin Dog Alliance facilitates a range of specialized programs that utilize these benefits to meet the varying needs of clients; and

WHEREAS, Pet therapy, or animal-assisted therapy, connects trained animals and handlers with patients to help them meet specific physical, cognitive, and emotional goals; Bow Wow Reading Dogs help at-risk students learn to read by serving as nonjudgmental listeners while the students read aloud; the Hounds for Heroes initiative provides veterans with specially trained service dogs who perform specific tasks to help their human partners lead more normal lives; Special Dogs for Special Needs are selected from local shelters and trained as emotional support dogs or service dogs for people with disabilities; the S+CORE program provides vocational training in dog handling and care to young adults with disabilities and helps these students with job placement; and

WHEREAS, Through its many programs of service, the Austin Dog Alliance has made a difference in the lives of countless Texans, and the volunteers and staff of the organization are indeed deserving of recognition for their exemplary work on behalf of their fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby commend all those associated with the Austin Dog Alliance for their outstanding contributions to the community and extend to them best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the alliance as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Schwertner

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 22, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate