

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-10-012**

SPONSORED BY: Commissioners John Giles, Mike Akard, Rick Carver, Jessica Hannah, Staci Martin and Linda Webb

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE BLOUNT COUNTY ANIMAL CENTER,  
FORMERLY THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN ANIMAL CARE FOUNDATION (SMACF)**

- WHEREAS,** The Smoky Mountain Animal Care Foundation (SMACF) was founded in 2007 by Diane Martin, Julie Nelson, Chris Protzman, Emily Straquadine and Rick Yeager. Established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to introduce and promote programs to improve animal welfare in Blount County, Tennessee, along with the surrounding areas of the Great Smoky Mountains; and
- WHEREAS,** The Foundation’s greatest undertaking was to raise funds, in conjunction with Blount County Government, to create an animal-care facility and support the development of a municipal animal shelter; and
- WHEREAS,** Their efforts raised \$1.2 million, which, along with the County’s contribution of \$400,000, funded the construction of the original Blount County Animal Center (BCAC). The Center partially opened in 2009, and was officially and fully opened in 2011, is currently the only open-access municipal shelter in the county, and is the sole facility guaranteed to serve Blount County’s citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** SMACF, also known as the Friends of BCAC, continues their mission to provide funding to the Center to ensure exceptional medical care and adoption outcomes; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2022, funding efforts provided by SMACF, coupled with a dedicated staff, and 250 active volunteers, resulted in a 90% placement rate through the primary rehoming channels of ADOPTION, RESCUE, AND TRANSPORT; and
- WHEREAS,** While the Friends of BCAC fundraising efforts continue, they have also taken on the role to support the county’s operations of the Blount County Animal Center. The Friends continuously seek for volunteers to work on a daily basis with the cats and dogs housed at BCAC that not only require basic care and attention, but most importantly, love and compassion. BCAC relies on a team of volunteers to work together to provide a clean, safe and happy environment for these precious and beautiful animals until they find their forever home.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Legislative Body of Blount County, Tennessee, having met in regular session on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, and Blount County Mayor, Ed Mitchell, do hereby give recognition and honor to:

- 1) the original SMACF Board Members Diane Martin, a co-founder that has faithfully served the longest tenure as board’s president for nine years, and a significant financial contributor to the Center’s current build; Julie Nelson, who continues to generously contribute monetarily and follows up on animal adoptions; Chris Protzman, an active and vocal supporter; Emily Straquadine and Rick Yeager; and
- 2) the current Friends of the BCAC (formerly SMACF) members, most that are relatively new, with the exception of the current Friends Board President Pam Ragon.

It is through their collective efforts and fundraising endeavors that a veterinarian for the Center has been secured, and a monthly Cat Snip program is being provided that has likely prevented thousands of kitten births in Blount County, Tennessee.

**Duly authorized and approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.**

**CERTIFICATION OF ACTION**

**ATTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- Approved
- Vetoed