

# Proclamation

**Whereas**, the City of Milton, Georgia is a relatively new incorporated City in Fulton County, Georgia that shares the concerns of our citizens regarding homeless pets and the importance of having safe homes and shelters for these animals; and

**Whereas**, there are six to eight million homeless pets in shelters in the United States and one hundred thousand animals euthanized every year in Atlanta alone; and

**Whereas**, October is National Adopt-A-Shelter Dog Month and provides a positive opportunity to bring awareness and volunteer efforts to the issue and needs of homeless pets and local shelters; and

**Whereas**, the Corporation of National and Community Services in cooperation with the U.S. Census Bureau and Independent Sector, reported 15.5 million teens between the ages of 12 – 18 participated in volunteer efforts annually for a combined 1.3 billion hours of service in their local communities; and

**Whereas**, when a youth from a family where at least one adult volunteers their time, it is almost two times more likely that the youth will volunteer, and nearly three times more likely that the youth will volunteer on a regular basis; and

**Whereas**, Zack and Thomas Eller have been dedicated as volunteers to the safety, rescue and welfare of animals for most of their lives by: 1) asking for pet food in lieu of birthday gifts in order to donate well over one thousand pounds of pet food to local shelters, 2) establishing Woof 'em Down Dog Biscuits, which makes dog biscuits and from which all proceeds go directly to Aiding and A-Petting, a pet rescue organization, 3) participating in local Milton events each year to raise funds for local shelters and 4) raising and donating over \$7,000.00 to pet rescue efforts; and

**Whereas**, Zack and Thomas Eller have received the President's Volunteer Service Award in 2006 and 2007 for their efforts on behalf of homeless animals, were chosen by the Disney Worldwide Outreach program as a winner of the Wondertime's Littlest Volunteers Contest, and were awarded a \$5,000.00 grant for their chosen charity; and

**Whereas**, Zack and Thomas Eller are outstanding examples of young students, leaders and volunteers residing in the City of Milton setting a positive example for other youth in the Milton community. Their efforts have helped to motivate and inspire other young people in their respective schools and community to get involved and volunteer on behalf of homeless pets and other volunteer initiatives as well.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Milton, hereby dedicate October 6<sup>th</sup> officially as the "Zack and Thomas Eller Adopt-a-Shelter Pet" day in Milton, Georgia.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the City of Milton, Georgia on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008.



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Joe Lockwood, Mayor