



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, assistance animals enhance the lives of their human partners by performing a variety of tasks that are important to an individual's independence, mobility, confidence and comfort; and

WHEREAS, persons with disabilities have the same rights to free and equal protection in society that persons without disabilities have, including access to public accommodations and transportation and to nondiscrimination in practices related to housing and employment; and

WHEREAS, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the laws of the State of New Jersey protect the rights of persons with disabilities and their assistance animals, as well as trainers and assistance animals in training; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for increased public awareness of the importance of assistance animals to persons with disabilities and of the rights of those who use assistance animals; and

WHEREAS, education is essential to alert the public to the harm that is caused by the fraudulent misrepresentation of pets as assistance animals and by the failure of pet owners to control their animals in the presence of an assistance animal; and

WHEREAS, local governments and law enforcement agencies should be made aware of the importance of enforcing existing local ordinances related to animal control in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and enable them to use assistance animals safely;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

AUGUST 14, 2013

AS

ASSISTANCE ANIMAL RECOGNITION DAY

in New Jersey in order to highlight the important role that assistance animals play in the lives of persons with disabilities and to promote awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and their assistance animals.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this seventh day of August in the year two thousand thirteen, the two hundred thirty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States.

Kim Guadagno

Lt. GOVERNOR

Chris Christie

GOVERNOR