

# Animal Welfare Ministry

## Diocesan Resolution 2017-4

**Resolution Number:** 2017-4    **Title:** Support Ethical Care of Animals

**Legislative Action Taken:** Approved, March 2017

### **Final text:**

Be It RESOLVED, that the 233rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey affirms the responsibility of all people to be stewards of God's creation, and recognizes that a spiritual disconnection with God's creatures has led to the abuse and exploitation of animals for commercial gain, sport, and as tools for laboratory research; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Diocese of New Jersey encourages parishes to engage in education and awareness programs on animal welfare concerns, such as those provided by the Animal Welfare Team of the Diocese, and to consider appropriate responses, including animal-friendly lifestyle changes ; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Diocese of New Jersey encourages individuals and parishes to seek opportunities to advocate for the humane treatment of animals, especially in areas of special concern such as factory farms, puppy mills and animals used for laboratory testing; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Diocese of New Jersey encourages the use of Authorized Rites and other liturgical materials made available by the Diocese for use in a variety of settings to provide pastorally for people caring for animals, especially at times of loss and bereavement.

SUBMITTED BY: The Rev. Christopher Cox (Deacon) of Trinity Cathedral, the Rev. Linda Moeller of Sts Stephen and Barnabas, Florence, the Rev. Francis Hubbard (retired), Karla Droste (Diocese of New Jersey), Sharon Patterson of St. Stephen's, Mullica Hill, Lin Murdoch of St. Stephen's, Waretown, and Lawrence Gustin of Trinity Cathedral, on behalf of the Animal Welfare Team of the Diocese of New Jersey.

### **EXPLANATION:**

The proposed Resolution builds on General Convention Resolutions 2003-D016, 2009-D015, 2009-C078, 2012-A054, and Diocesan Resolution 2009-4, with a view to increasing education and awareness of animal welfare concerns, and leading individuals and parishes to consider appropriate responses. The Resolution will be implemented through the activities of the Diocesan Animal Welfare Team.