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2 Councilmember Mary Cheh

_____ Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

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5 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

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8 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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13 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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18 To declare the existence of an emergency, with respect to the need to establish a standard of care
19 for animals, provide additional authority for the Animal Care and Control Agency to issue
20 citations; and to increase fines for failing to provide animals with humane treatment.

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23 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
24 resolution may be cited as the “Standard of Care for Animals Emergency Declaration Resolution
25 of 2017”.

26 Sec. 2. (a) On February 21 of this year, the Extreme Weather Protection for Animals
27 Emergency Amendment Act of 2017 to protect dogs left outside during extreme winter
28 conditions.

29 (b) The law was needed in response to situations like that of Momma, a Pitbull, that was
30 left outside during a Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency extreme cold weather
31 advisory.

32 (c) Similar permanent legislation (Bill 22-64, Standard of Care for Animals Amendment
33 Act of 2017) is pending before the Council, and the Committee on Health held a public hearing
34 on the bill March 20, 2017.

35 (d) However, the legislation will not be passed in time to implement this summer, and
36 extreme heat poses as great a danger to animals as extreme cold temperatures.

37 (e) Already, there have been two dogs rescued from hot cars and a third dog has died
38 from heat exposure from being left outside.

39 (f) The emergency bill creates a standard of care for animals including requirements of
40 adequate care, feed, space, shelter, and water. Additionally, the bill outlines what constitutes an
41 adequate shelter for dogs that primarily reside outdoors. The bill specifically prohibits leaving an
42 animal in a parked vehicle in such a way as to endanger the animal's health, safety, or welfare.
43 The bill also requires that when the temperature reaches above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, animals
44 should not be left outdoors, unattended for more than 15 minutes unless the age, condition, size
45 and type of animal allows the animal to withstand the extreme weather.

46 (g) The bill provides Animal Control with the authority to issue citations ranging from
47 warnings to fines not to exceed \$500, or \$1000 in cases of intentional or grossly negligent harm
48 to an animal.

49 (i) This legislation will ensure that there will be safeguards in place for the duration of
50 summer and until a permanent version can be enacted.

51 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
52 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
53 Extreme Heat Protection for Animals Emergency Amendment Act of 2017 be adopted after a
54 single reading.

55 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.