

1                    **Senate Resolution Regarding Animal Sheltering During Disasters**

2    2026 GENERAL SESSION

3    STATE OF UTAH

4    **Chief Sponsor: Jen Plumb**

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5                    **LONG TITLE**

6                    **General Description:**

7                    This resolution encourages local governments to update disaster emergency plans to  
8                    address the needs of individuals who may need to evacuate during a disaster with household  
9                    pets.

10                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

11                   This resolution:

12                   † encourages local governments within the state to incorporate into emergency management  
13                   and disaster planning the needs of individuals with household pets, consistent with  
14                   federal guidance and the demonstrated frequency and impact of federally declared  
15                   disasters in Utah.

16                   **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

17                   None

18                   **Other Special Clauses:**

19                   None

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20                   *Be it resolved by the Senate of the state of Utah:*

21                   WHEREAS, from 2020-2024 Utah experienced 12 Federal Emergency Management  
22                   Agency (FEMA) Major Disaster Declarations and Fire Management Assistance Declarations,  
23                   demonstrating the recurring nature of emergency events in the state;

24                   WHEREAS, Utah families may be required to evacuate their homes with household pets  
25                   during disasters, and failure for local emergency plans that account for sheltering families and  
26                   their household pets can hinder or delay safe evacuation;

27                   WHEREAS, a 2015 study on the challenges of managing animals in United States disasters  
28                   reported that 20 to 30% of human evacuation failures are attributed to pet ownership;

29                   WHEREAS, approximately 58% of Utah households own a household pet and would likely  
30                   need a safe location to bring themselves and their pets during a disaster;

31                   WHEREAS, local governments in Utah are responsible for emergency operations planning,  
including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts;

