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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 79
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004
INTRODUCED BY
Joe Thompson

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE FEBRUARY "SPAY AND NEUTER
AWARENESS MONTH" AND REQUESTING STATE OFFICIALS TO TAKE ACTION
TO REDUCE COMPANION ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION.

WHEREAS, cats and dogs provide companionship to and share
the homes of over sixty-three million people in the United
States; and

WHEREAS, two unaltered cats and their offspring can
produce four hundred twenty thousand cats in seven years, and
two unaltered dogs and their offspring can produce sixty-seven
thousand dogs in six years; and

WHEREAS, humane societies and shelters in New Mexico are
burdened with an overpopulation of approximately ninety
thousand cats and dogs each year, many of which, although
healthy and adoptable, are killed simply because there are not

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1 enough good homes; and

2 WHEREAS, city and county governments spend an estimated
3 fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) annually on animal
4 control programs aimed at coping with the surplus of homeless
5 cats and dogs; and

6 WHEREAS, spaying and neutering cats and dogs has been
7 shown to drastically reduce cat and dog overpopulation; and

8 WHEREAS, spaying and neutering programs have been shown to
9 be more cost-effective in countering the homeless animal crisis
10 than euthanasia; and

11 WHEREAS, funding is needed to provide spay and neuter
12 services to low-income families; and

13 WHEREAS, veterinarians, humane societies, national and
14 local animal protection organizations, private citizens and
15 entire communities worked together to ensure the spaying and
16 neutering of thousands of companion animals across New Mexico
17 in the last year; and

18 WHEREAS, "spay day" efforts have served to educate
19 countless people about the need to spay or neuter cats and
20 dogs;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to declare
23 February "Spay and Neuter Awareness Month" in New Mexico; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and local officials be
25 requested to take action to reduce companion animal

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overpopulation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the governor.