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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 6

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Jim Dines

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONSIDER TRAINING ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IN TRAINING DELIVERED TO APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL.

WHEREAS, many studies have shown the strong correlation between animal abuse, child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse; and

WHEREAS, often, when one form of violence or abuse is present in a family, other forms are also present or are likely to exist in the future; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that:

A. seventy-six percent of animal abusers also abuse another family member;

B. seventy-one percent of domestic violence shelter

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1 residents with companion animals report that their abuser had
2 injured, maimed, killed or threatened their family's companion
3 animals as a form of retaliation or to exert psychological
4 control over the victim;

5 C. thirty-two percent of domestic violence shelter
6 residents with companion animals report that their children had
7 harmed or killed animals;

8 D. people who have a history of animal abuse are
9 approximately three times more likely to commit a violent
10 crime; and

11 E. nearly fifty percent of victims of domestic
12 violence delay leaving their abusers because of their concern
13 for the safety and welfare of their companion animals; and

14 WHEREAS, animal abuse is often the most publicly visible
15 sign of family violence and is, therefore, an important
16 indicator of abuse that may be perpetrated in a home against
17 children, adults and elders; and

18 WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department and
19 the department of public safety employ many dedicated workers
20 whose jobs include the delivery of services and the performance
21 of duties in homes throughout the state, and those workers are
22 uniquely positioned to identify instances of family abuse,
23 including animal abuse, child abuse, domestic violence and
24 elder abuse; and

25 WHEREAS, training for workers in those departments on how

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1 to identify signs of abuse of animals could help highlight and
2 prevent existing or potential child abuse, domestic violence or
3 elder abuse;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
6 department and the department of public safety be requested to
7 consider training on the link between animal abuse and family
8 violence in the departments' training curricula for field
9 workers and all other appropriate staff members; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretaries of children, youth and families
12 and public safety.