HOUSE MEMORIAL 23

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998 I NTRODUCED BY

GARY K. KING

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE NEED TO INCREASE PENALTIES FOR CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

WHEREAS, animals provide important companionship for and add richness to the lives of many New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, many New Mexicans rely on animals to provide a livelihood for them; and

WHEREAS, research and experience tell us that animals are capable of feeling physical and psychological pain and suffering; and

WHEREAS, sociologists tell us that the abuse of animals and the abuse of humans are connected and that those who abuse animals are more likely than others to abuse people; and

WHEREAS, most violent criminals have histories of abusing animals prior to committing crimes against humans; and

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WHEREAS, the state should intervene immediately in animal abuse cases to prevent a pattern that could lead to crimes against humans; and

WHEREAS, animals are frequently willfully or maliciously tortured, mutilated, injured, poisoned or cruelly killed in New Mexico:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the appropriate legislative interim committee be requested to study the issue, including the need to classify cruelty to animals as a felony offense; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its findings and recommendations to the first session of the forty-fourth legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the legislative council for assignment to the appropriate interim committee.

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE SECOND SESSION, 1998

February 18, 1998

Mr. Speaker:

Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

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has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS.

 $Respectfully \ \ submitted,$

Thomas P. Foy, Chairman

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

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