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HOUSE MEMORIAL 46

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Tim D. Lewis

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXAMINE THE UTILITY OF CREATING AN INTERNAL DOMESTIC ANIMAL ABUSE DATABASE TO ADDRESS PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES.

WHEREAS, the 2012 eighth grade social studies class of the Rio Rancho cyber academy participated in project citizen, a national program to help students become involved in their communities; and

WHEREAS, as part of project citizen, the students identified animal abuse as a significant problem in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the students decided that a solution to the problems presented by animal abuse in the state could be ameliorated by the creation of a database listing people who

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1 had abused animals; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks as the state with the second  
3 highest rate of pet ownership in the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico also has been ranked by the animal  
5 legal defense fund as one of the worst five states for animals  
6 based on state animal protection laws; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico has witnessed an increase in the  
8 reports of animal abuse to animal cruelty hotlines in the past  
9 decade; and

10 WHEREAS, research has established a significant  
11 correlation between animal abuse and family violence, such as  
12 child abuse, elder abuse and spousal abuse; and

13 WHEREAS, certain kinds of animal cruelty, particularly  
14 animal fighting, have been linked to other activities harmful  
15 to communities, including gang-related crimes, drug and alcohol  
16 abuse and illegal gambling; and

17 WHEREAS, a history of animal abuse is a more accurate  
18 predictor of sexual assault than is a history of conviction for  
19 homicide, arson or firearms offenses; and

20 WHEREAS, awareness of animal abuse would assist the  
21 state's law enforcement organizations to predict and prevent  
22 violence and other criminality; and

23 WHEREAS, current statutes stipulate increased criminal  
24 penalties for multiple convictions of animal crimes, yet there  
25 is no state database that tracks these offenders; and

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