

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION FOR  
PROTECTION OF PETS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATIONS

WHEREAS, more than 64 million U.S. households have one or more domestic companion animals (dog or cat), and 85% of domestic violence shelters in the U.S. indicate that battered family members seeking shelter have reported incidents of pet abuse, and

WHEREAS, since abusers often use animals as leverage, close to 50% of domestic violence victims who are in abusive domestic situations don't leave home because of fear that their partners will abuse or kill the family pet left behind, and

WHEREAS, Orders of Protection by family courts are the legal tool used to extend protection to a battered individual and family pet in a dangerous domestic situation in the home, and

WHEREAS, only 11 states to date have passed legislation which permits Orders of Protection to include family pets, recognizing that pets are important and beloved members of a family, and many domestic violence shelters do not permit pets to be housed in the shelter, and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of New Mexico is planning to offer a proposed amendment to New Mexico's laws for consideration by the Legislature at its next session which would provide for family pets to be included in Orders of Protection, thereby bestowing on the State of New Mexico the opportunity for the honor of becoming the 12th state in the nation to have in place this compassionate protection for beloved pets, and

WHEREAS, this Resolution has been drafted as a sign of support for changing the laws in the state of New Mexico to help protect family pets from dangerous environments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the governing body of [Municipality or County] urges the Legislature of the great State of New Mexico to give favorable consideration to the Attorney General's proposal for the inclusion of domestic companion animals in Orders of Protection for battered individuals and their families, such that this compassionate and humane protection becomes the law of this State.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 200\_\_.

[SIGNATURE BLOCK for Commission or Council Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Members and ATTEST by County or City Clerk]