



EQUINE PROTECTION FUND

Creating a State Fund to assist equine shelters and individuals with the humane care, treatment, rehabilitation and humane disposition of equines.

House Bill 781 — Sponsor Rep. Andy Nuñez

THE PROBLEM:

Given the current challenging economic times, the number of people unable to adequately care for their equines has significantly increased. Equine slaughterhouses across the nation have recently been closed down because of grave concerns about inhumane practices, and the public is opposed to the continued slaughter of equines. States need to find solutions for the humane care and disposition of equines.

THE SOLUTION:

Create the New Mexico Equine Protection Fund.

 The Fund would:

- Consist of monies collected from both public and private sources, including donations, bequests, state appropriations and other sources.
- Minimize the suffering of equines by seeking solutions to their most immediate needs. The Fund could provide financial support to sanctuaries for abandoned or relinquished equines, and could subsidize equine care, treatment, rehabilitation and humane disposition.
- The fund shall be administered by the department of finance and administration, following recommendations for expenditures from an advisory committee appointed by the secretary of finance and administration. The advisory committee shall consist of a variety of people interested in equine issues, including from the horse breeding community, the horse racing industry, the rodeo industry, the livestock community and the animal advocacy community.

Benefits to the community:

Our communities are safer and they are better places to live in when animals are treated humanely. Across the state our communities provide shelter and if necessary, humane euthanasia, for dogs and cats that are no longer wanted and for whom homes cannot be found. Humane care and disposition should also be provided for unwanted equines.