



## Animal Protection Voters

P.O. Box 11651  
Albuquerque, NM 87192  
Phone: 505-265-2322 Fax: 505-265-2488  
www.apvnm.org

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January 22, 2009

Dear Friend of the Animals,

Animal Protection Voters (APV) spearheaded the passage of New Mexico's animal cruelty law in 1999, which has meant that the deaths or suffering of countless animals since then have resulted in charges being filed against numerous perpetrators. The felony cruelty law formed a basis for law enforcement and other agencies to rightfully expend resources in investigation, evidence collection and prosecution of those whose acts have been classified under the definition of "cruelty" or "extreme cruelty" to animals. We are now requesting your support to help APV and the New Mexico Attorney General's Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACT), *strengthen* animal cruelty laws in New Mexico.

Over the last several years APV and ACT have discovered that the animal cruelty law, as currently written, does not adequately protect animals in certain situations. Therefore,

APV and Attorney General Gary King will work to expand the definition of animal cruelty so that: cases involving animals who die from lack of food or water will be prosecuted; those who torture and kill reptiles can be charged; people who allow their animals to be injured or killed when they are left in an enclosed vehicle during hot summers can be charged with cruelty; and intentional abandonment of animals that results in death will be subject to felony prosecution.

The enclosed fact sheet provides more detail on why we are asking for the broadened definition of animal cruelty under the law.

We at APV are proud of the broad base of supporters who form our coalition in support of this legislation. People like you have worked over the years to ensure our elected officials know that we care a great deal about how animals are treated, and that we don't think it's permissible to allow animals to suffer cruelty, or to perish under miserable circumstances.

Join APV's diligent efforts to protect more animals. At your earliest convenience, please sign and return the attached statement of support for this legislation, and join us in Santa Fe for APV's rescheduled Lobby Day and press conference on February 27. Please see [apvnm.org](http://apvnm.org) for detailed information.

Thank you for making animals matter in New Mexico.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Ferguson", written in a cursive style.

Heather Ferguson  
Legislative Director

## Voices Against Violence Coalition Statement

Whereas not providing adequate food, water and shelter to an animal, resulting in great bodily harm or death, is extremely cruel and inhumane; and

Whereas torturing and killing reptiles is extremely cruel and inhumane; and

Whereas numerous incidents have occurred where animals have been allowed to perish in vehicles subject to temperature extremes; and

Whereas the prosecution of animal abuse cases will be augmented by the inclusion of criminal negligence in the statute; and

Whereas citizens of New Mexico have made it clear they support stronger laws to protect animals from harm,

Therefore, we the undersigned, support the Voices Against Violence coalition and its efforts to combat cruelty to animals in New Mexico. We urge that the proposed amendments to New Mexico's cruelty statute be passed during the 2009 legislature.

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Printed Name

Signature

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Title

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Organization

### **Immediate Action Requested**

Please return this form to:

Animal Protection Voters, Inc.  
Attn: Laura  
P.O. Box 11651  
Albuquerque, NM 87192  
Fax: 505-265-2488 — Attn: Laura  
laura@apvnm.org

*Please RSVP to Laura if you plan to attend Lobby Day on Feb. 27*