

Water & Natural Resources Committee
Presentation

**Companion Animal Rescue,
Population Management, and
Veterinary Training Opportunities**

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**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
VOTERS**

*respect all animals * protect all animals*



Equine Rescue



The Equine Shelter Rescue Fund

- The Equine Shelter Rescue Fund is administered by the NM Livestock Board (NMLB)
- Funds are collected via three sources:
 1. Voluntary tax donation check-off (Pit-D form)
 2. Donors
 3. State legislative appropriations
- Funds are granted to state-registered equine shelters after an NMLB-organized committee deliberates and agrees on distribution amounts.



The Role of Equine Shelters/Rescues



Photo of "Bobby" courtesy of Masleña Rescue Foundation Ranch

- There are currently 12 registered nonprofit shelters for equines in New Mexico. They are responsible for taking in, housing, feeding, providing veterinary care, training, and adopting out hundreds of homeless equines every year.
- Most of these equines are either strays who are captured and transferred from the New Mexico Livestock Board or surrendered by people who can no longer provide care. Others are seized as part of animal cruelty and other law enforcement cases.
- In 2021, 18% of all incidents handled by the NMLB involved animal cruelty. Approximately 90% of the cruelty cases the NMLB handles involved equines.



Abandoned, blind, and starving in the desert, this mare was rescued by **Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary** in Las Cruces. With a special feeding plan, medical care, and blind-friendly pen to keep her safe, she began to thrive. Her name is *Gita*, which means “sacred song,” and she will live out her life in sanctuary.



Sky's the Limit weighed only 700 pounds when he arrived at **Walkin N Circles Ranch** in Stanley. Severely emaciated and needing 24-hour medical care, his body was literally shutting down. Thanks to support from the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund, they were able to provide Sky with the care he needed. He slowly regained weight. His strength and personality returned.



Esme, an emaciated 30+ year old mare, wandering sick with pneumonia, was taken in by **Perfect Harmony Rescue & Sanctuary** in Chaparral. With a slow feeding program and round-the-clock care, Esme gradually healed. She has few teeth remaining and ongoing health issues, but a delightful “sassy, opinionated” personality. Esme will live in sanctuary the rest of her life.



Belle was a yearling donkey surrendered to **Four Corners Equine Rescue** in Aztec. She was found dangerously thin and infested with worms and lice, even needing assistance to stand after lying down. She soon grew to be engaging and energetic, and was recently adopted!

A Timeline of Help for NEW MEXICO EQUINE SHELTERS

(SB 328) requested one-time \$500,000 appropriation
A portion—one-time \$250,000 appropriation—was included in the state budget (SB 313)

2013

(SB 274) Horse Shelter Rescue Fund created, with a tax refund check-off donation funding mechanism, which brings in, on average, less than \$10,000/year

2014

(SB 125) requested one-time \$500,000 appropriation—
not included in budget

2020

(SB 557) requested one-time \$500,000 appropriation—
not included in budget

2019

(SB 407) requested one-time \$20,000 appropriation—not included in budget
One-time \$150,000 appropriation included in the special appropriations bill (SB 377/“junior budget”)

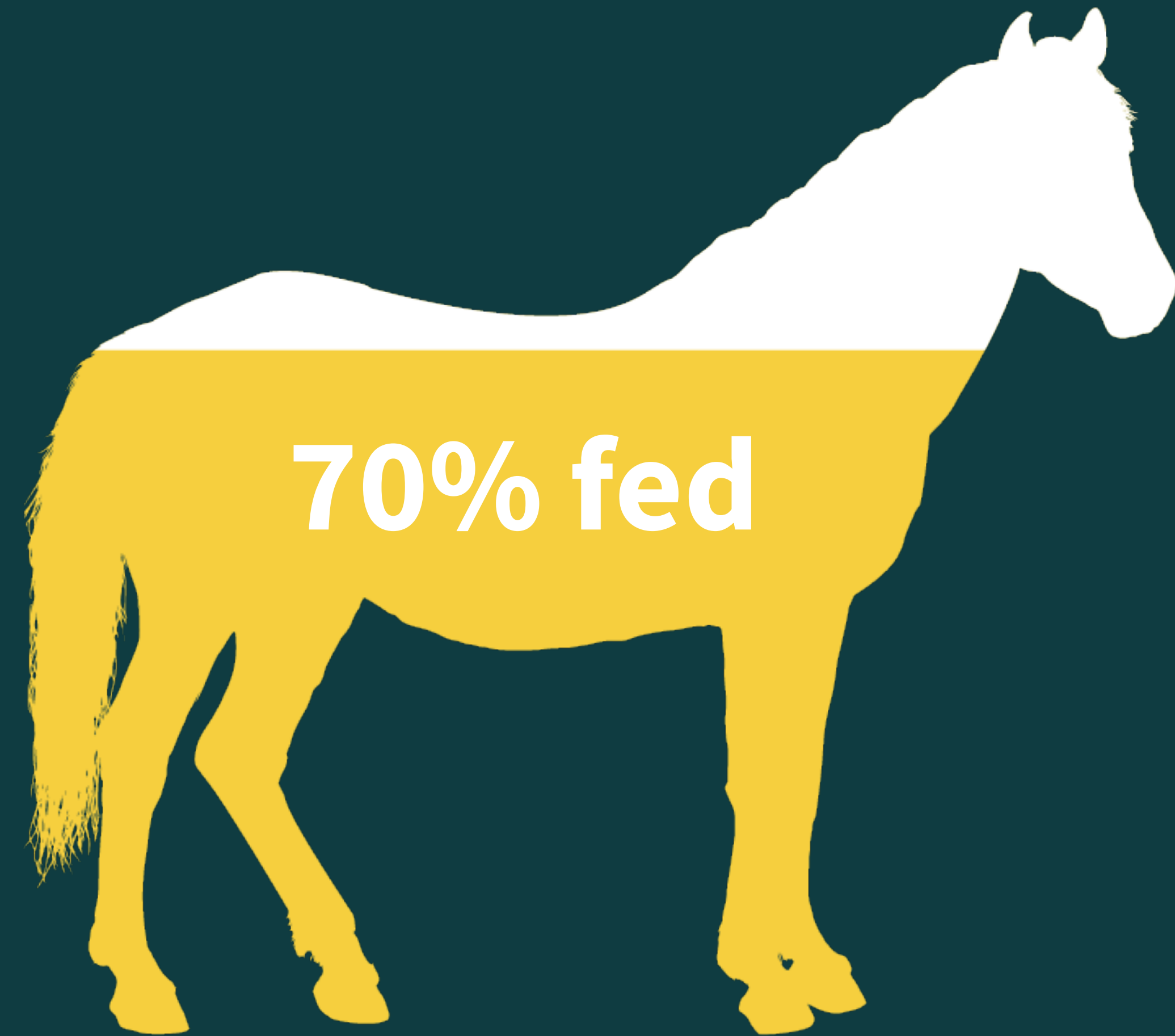
2021

Recurring \$350,000 annual appropriation was included in a revised appropriations bill during the April 5 special session (SB 1/“junior bill”)

2022

THE IMPACT OF \$350,000 RECURRING

- NM equine shelters rely almost solely on volunteers & donations—with no other reliable or substantial government funding.
- Based on recent data/capacity, an annual \$350,000 for the ESRF would ensure aid to the shelters equivalent to **70% of homeless equines in shelters fed for an entire year**, guaranteed every year, funded by public dollars.
- This gives shelters—and other funders, like the APNM Equine Protection Fund—the opportunity to **maximize our private funding in different ways:** infrastructure, training, more gelding/fertility control, veterinary care, and other capacity, and emergency equine feed for families in need.



The FY 2023 Distribution

(From the initial recurring \$350,000 appropriated in 2022 + \$10,000 from tax check-off donations; distributions based on base support + weighted per-horse amounts)

SHELTER	CITY	AMOUNT
Walkin N Circles Ranch	Edgewood	\$42,923.00
The Horse Shelter	Cerrillos	\$86,769.00
Masleña Rescue Foundation	Tijeras	\$6,000.00
Four Corners Equine Rescue	Aztec	\$57,923.00
End of the Road Ranch	Silver City	\$38,308.00
Equine Spirit Sanctuary	Ranchos de Taos	\$33,692.00
Dharmahorse Equine Sanctuary	Las Cruces	\$24,462.00
Sky Mountain Wild	Santa Fe	\$15,231.00
Perfect Harmony	Chaparral	\$22,154.00
Mustang Camp	Blanco	\$32,538.00



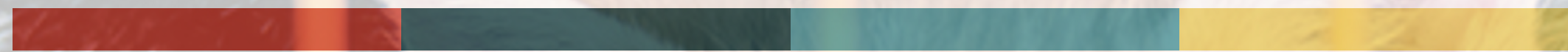
Unfortunately, the recurring \$350,000 to the Equine Shelter Rescue Fund was not included in the FY 2024 state budget.

(\$250,000 in junior money was allocated to the ESRF as a stop-gap)

New Mexico should ensure the \$350,000 (or more) is included in the state budget for FY 2025 and beyond to facilitate New Mexico's equine rescue services.



Spay/Neuter



Overrun with Homeless Dogs & Cats

- New Mexico's animal shelters have seen a sharp uptick in the number of homeless dogs and cats coming through their doors during the past few years. Increased financial hardships over the last several years have led to a lot more relinquishments. For many shelters, they often have no space to take in new animals, and euthanasia rates have increased.
- At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, spay/neuter surgeries and clinics were paused for several months.
- Unfortunately, the timing of this spay/neuter services pause was during the usual springtime "puppy and kitten season"—leading to a catastrophic deluge of new animals that even increased adoption rates couldn't keep up with.





**“People want to do the right thing
for their animals, they just have no
expendable funds for spay/neuter.”**

*– Leslie Fernandez,
Raton Humane Society*

New Mexico's Statewide Spay/Neuter Program

- The New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine (NMBVM) administers the Animal Care & Facility Fund (as of July 2018).
- Funds are collected via three sources:
 1. Specialty license plate (2009)
 2. Voluntary tax donation check-off (Pit-D form) (2015)
 3. Annual pet food manufacturer fees collected by the NM Dept. of Agriculture (2020) (SB 57)
- The NMBVM's Animal Sheltering Committee members solicit and review applications and then make recommendations on grant distributions to spay/neuter service providers.



2018 PIT-D
NEW MEXICO VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEDULE

Print your name (first, middle, last) _____ PRIMARY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____

Use this Schedule PIT-D to contribute any of your tax refund to any of New Mexico's voluntary contribution funds. Total fund contributions may not exceed the amount on Form PIT-1, line 39. If you are not due a refund but want to contribute to any of the funds, do not mail your contributions to the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. Send your contribution directly to the addresses listed in the instructions for Schedule PIT-D.

Please consider your contribution to any of the funds carefully because, if you change your mind or amend your return, no part of your contribution is refundable. The Department will deduct your contribution from your refund and transfer your contributions to the appropriate funds. If the contributions exceed the refund due, no contributions will be made or deducted from your refund. For more information about these contributions, see the instructions for Schedule PIT-D.

1. Overpayment amount from Form PIT-1, line 39.....	1	_____
2. NEW MEXICO HOUSING TRUST FUND Contribution to support affordable housing programs.....	2	_____
3. SHARE WITH WILDLIFE Contribution to assist non-game or endangered species.....	3	_____
4. VETERANS' STATE CEMETERY FUND Contribution to increase the size of the Santa Fe National Cemetery.....	4	_____
5. NEW MEXICO SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION FUND Contribution to provide additional funds for substance abuse education programs in New Mexico schools.....	5	_____
6. NEW MEXICO FOREST RE-LEAF PROGRAM Contribution to provide grants to communities in New Mexico for planting trees on public lands.....	6	_____
7. NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE Contribution to help members, and their families, of the New Mexico National Guard.....	7	_____
8. KIDS 'N PARKS TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM Contribution to help fund field trips for the Kids 'n Parks Transportation Grant program.....	8	_____
9. AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS RESEARCH FUND Contribution to help fund research for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease).....	9	_____
10. VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL Contribution to help operate, maintain, and improve the Vietnam Veterans Memorial near Angel Fire, New Mexico.....	10	_____
11. NEW MEXICO POLITICAL PARTIES Contribution. To contribute, enter the number of the state political party to which you choose to make a \$2 donation. The spouse's contribution is allowed on a jointly-filed return only.		_____
1 for the New Mexico Democratic Party	ENTER NUMBER OF YOUR PARTY CHOICE	11a <input type="checkbox"/>
2 for the New Mexico Republican Party	ENTER NUMBER OF YOUR SPOUSE'S PARTY CHOICE	11b <input type="checkbox"/>
3 for the Libertarian Party of New Mexico	(on jointly-filed returns only)	
4 for the Green Party of New Mexico		
5 for the Better for America Party of New Mexico		
6 for the Constitution Party of New Mexico		
Total political party contributions. (Allowable amounts are \$2 or \$4, otherwise leave blank)		11 _____
12. VETERANS ENTERPRISE FUND Contribution to fund the programs, duties, or services of the Department of Veterans' Services.....	12	_____
13. TUITION FUND Contribution to provide tuition assistance for New Mexico resident undergraduates.....	13	_____
14. ELDER RESCUE FUND Contribution to provide horse rescues and homeless horses in New Mexico.....	14	_____
15. ANIMAL CARE AND FACILITY FUND Contribution to fund a statewide dog and cat spay and neuter program.....	15	_____
16. RURAL SENIOR SERVICES Contribution to provide the greatest needs statewide receive services through these contributions to the Aging and Long-Term Services.....	16	_____
17. ADULT EXAMINATION KIT PROCESSING FUND Contribution to fund the processing of sexual assault examination kits and the provision of sexual assault service providers.....	17	_____
TOTAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. ADD lines 2 through 17.....	18	_____

Use and on Form PIT-1, line 40.



Lawsuit Challenging SB 57 (Timeline)

- December 2020 — Lawsuit filed (and is still pending)
- January 2021 — SB 57 took effect: pet food manufacturer fees were collected throughout the year by the Dept. of Agriculture but temporarily held.
- May/June 2022 — Dept. of Agriculture released to the NM Board of Veterinary Medicine approximately \$900,000 in collected spay/neuter funds
- November 2022 — A federal judge ruled that the federal court did not have jurisdiction over the case and sent the case to state court.
- April 2023 — The State (Defendants) filed a motion to dismiss the case in state court. There is no ruling on the motion yet.

**2021
Distribution:
\$218,000***

**From several years of
tax check-off and license
plate revenues*

*17 spay/neuter
providers were
awarded grants*

*37 applicants requested
a total of nearly
\$1 million*

Awardee	City/County	Amount
ACTION Programs for Animals	Las Cruces/Doña Ana	\$4,000
Animal Village NM	Alamogordo/Otero	\$35,000
Broken Promises SW	Las Cruces/Doña Ana	\$5,000
The Cat's Meow Resource and Adoption Center	Las Cruces/Doña Ana	\$10,000
City of Hobbs Animal Adoption Center	Hobbs/Lea	\$19,000
City of Santa Rosa	Santa Rosa/Guadalupe	\$13,000
Deming-Luna County Humane Society	Deming/Luna	\$7,000
Friends of Estancia Valley Animals	Edgewood/Santa Fe	\$5,000
Friends of Roswell Animals (FORA)	Roswell/Chaves	\$15,000
Friends of Shelter and Companion Animals	Los Alamos/Los Alamos	\$10,000
HART NM, Valencia County Animal Shelter, All for Animals, and Spay/Neuter Coalition of NM	Valencia County	\$35,000
High Desert Humane Society	Silver City/Grant	\$9,000
Humane Society of Lincoln County	Ruidoso/Lincoln	\$5,000
Jemez Valley Animal Amigos	Jemez Springs/Sandoval	\$8,000
McKinley County Humane Society	Gallup/McKinley	\$5,500
Northern New Mexico Friends of Animals	Questa/Taos	\$8,000
Raton Humane Society	Raton/Colfax	\$25,000

A **2023** Animal Care & Facility Fund distribution of the released ~\$900,000 is in progress.

- *The NMBVM has launched a grant cycle this summer.*
- *110+ registrants for the APNM//Animal Sheltering Committee webinar explaining the grant application process*
- *More than 20 providers applied for the funds by mid-August (apps were due by Sep 1)*

Another distribution of ~\$1 million is expected in **2024** as well. (Plan is to launch a grant cycle in Spring 2024 for funds distribution in July).



VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE



The Problem

- Forecasts predict a shortage of 15,000 U.S. veterinarians and 70 million pets going without veterinary care by 2030.
- Some NM animal shelter/rescue professionals are stating the biggest obstacle to widespread spay/neuter services is not just the funding, but also finding the veterinarians to perform the surgeries.
- There is only one 24-hour emergency vet practice in all of NM.
- Most common community needs include: microchipping, flea/tick medication, and community cat management
- **BOTTOM LINE:** We must balance trying to meet the increased demand for veterinarian services while ensuring the tactics don't compromise the quality and safety of the care of the animal patients.



Possible Solution: Open a Veterinary School in NM

- There is a need: Over 2,000 qualified applicants are not admitted to U.S. veterinary colleges each year due to school/class-size restraints. Some studies estimate that there are 3 jobs for every one person in veterinary medicine.
- This is a **long-term solution** – would take several years to study, plan, secure accreditation, staff and open, and then train graduates from a 4-year program. Likely requires significant investment from the state.


ACCREDITED U.S. VETERINARY MEDICINE PROGRAMS

School	Model	Resident Tuition	Nonresident Tuition	Class of 2026 Size	Residents	Nonresidents	Other Students
Arizona	Distributive	\$15,739	\$24,239	110	45	65	
Auburn	Traditional	\$27,254 (Alabama, Kentucky)	\$50,026	130	41 (Alabama) 38 (Kentucky)	51	
UC Davis	Traditional	\$38,385	\$50,630	150	120	23	7 (WICHE states)
Colorado State	Traditional	\$39,000	\$65,000	130-150	70	40-50	20-30 (Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, New Mexico, Wyoming)
Cornell	Traditional	\$39,900	\$59,500	126	63	63	
Florida	Traditional	\$28,790	\$45,500	150	104	46	
Georgia	Traditional	\$18,904	\$48,566	150	100	19	2 (Delaware) 29 (South Carolina)
Illinois	Traditional	\$29,708	\$53,214	160	80	80	
Iowa State	Traditional	\$26,424	\$57,322	160	60	70	30 (North Dakota, Nebraska)
Kansas State	Traditional	\$23,152	\$55,742	113-118	50	62-67	1 (International)
Lincoln Memorial	Hybrid distributive	\$51,590	\$51,590	100 (spring) 125 (fall)	N/A	N/A	
Long Island	Distributive	\$57,222	\$57,222	100	N/A	N/A	
Louisiana State	Traditional	\$27,395	\$56,495	130	66	55	9 (Arkansas)
Michigan State	Traditional	\$31,628	\$47,436	115	61	54	
Midwestern	Traditional	\$68,985	\$68,985	134	29	105	2 (International)
Minnesota	Traditional	\$33,444	\$60,048	105	53	52	
Mississippi State	Hybrid	\$29,170	\$51,464	112	45-48	45-48	10 (South Carolina) 7 (West Virginia)
Missouri	Traditional	\$30,666	\$71,822	116	N/A	N/A	
North Carolina State	Traditional	\$19,988	\$50,677	116	93	23	
Ohio State	Traditional	\$34,228	\$74,350 (first year)	165	N/A	N/A	
Oklahoma State	Traditional	\$24,400	\$51,050	110	58	48	2 (Arkansas, Delaware) 2 (International)
Oregon State	Traditional	\$28,312	\$54,502	72	40	32	
Pennsylvania	Traditional	\$50,464	\$50,464	126	44	82	
Purdue	Traditional	\$19,918	\$44,746	84	52	32	
Tennessee	Traditional	\$29,336	\$58,602	85	60	25	
Texas A&M	Traditional	\$26,320	\$42,022	180	162	18	
Texas Tech	Hybrid distributive	\$22,000	\$32,800	172	164	8	
Tufts	Traditional	\$58,832	\$65,332	103	32	71	
Tuskegee	Traditional	\$20,585	\$20,585	65	N/A	N/A	
Wisconsin	Traditional	\$33,021	\$53,245	96	62	34	
Virginia-Maryland	Traditional	\$26,998	\$57,602	126	50 (Virginia) 30 (Maryland)	40	6 (West Virginia)
Washington State	Traditional	\$27,332	\$62,936	131	55	35	11 (Idaho) 10 (Montana) 20 (Utah)
Western	Distributive	\$57,604	\$57,604	112	N/A	N/A	

Other Possible Options

- Expand the privileges & responsibilities granted to registered veterinary technicians:
 - + Potentially: Microchipping; vaccines; euthanasia (already done by non-vet technicians for animal shelter/control facilities)
 - Current vet tech training would not generally qualify a tech to perform spay/neuter surgery; perhaps exploration of a mid-level practitioner/specialist?
- Grow available vet school student loan forgiveness programs
- Ban non-compete clauses in veterinary employment contracts
- Maximize telemedicine / teletriage
- Recruit non-working veterinarians to return to provide relief hours





New Mexico should bring together veterinary experts, animal welfare experts, and the public to study the feasibility of the different options to grow, retain, and attract new/more veterinarians in the state.

A state-convened task force could help ensure the right expertise and diverse considerations.

THANK YOU



ANIMAL PROTECTION NEW MEXICO
ANIMAL PROTECTION VOTERS

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