

Protecting Animals as a Tool to Protect Children and Communities

Presentation to the Courts, Corrections & Justice Committee

September 13, 2021

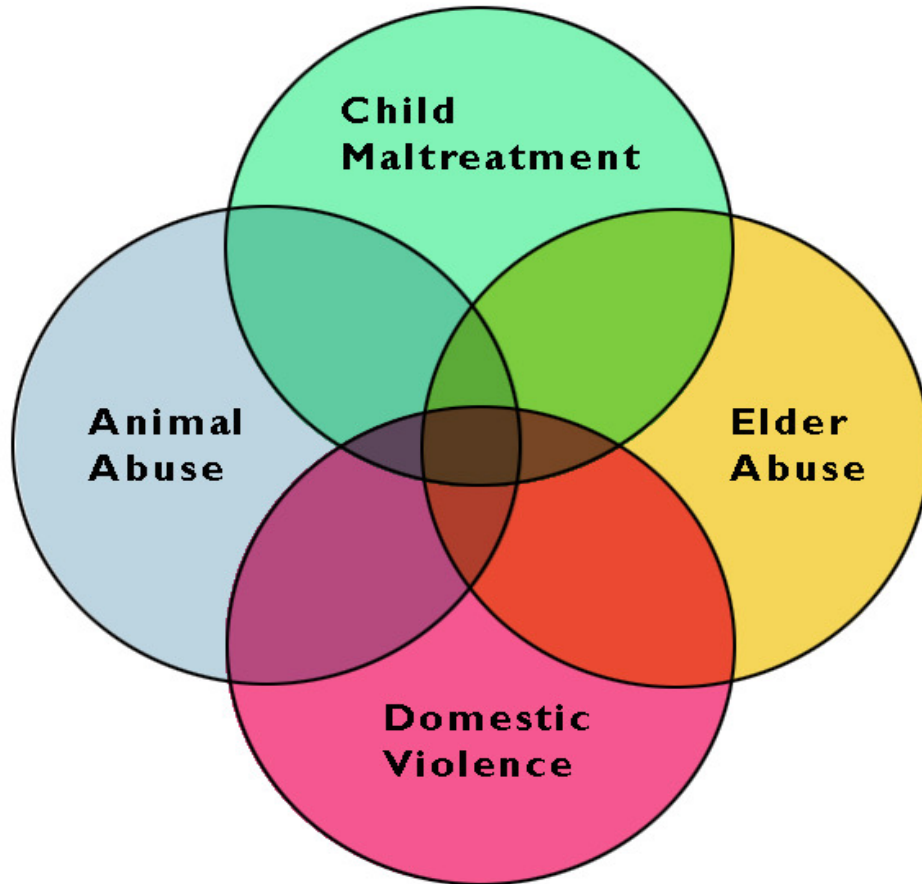
Tammy Fiebelkorn
Founder & President
Positive Links



Jessica Johnson, J.D.
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Animal Protection New Mexico & Animal Protection Voters



The Link



- ❖ *When animals are abused - people are at risk.*
- ❖ *When people are abused - animals are at risk.*
- ❖ When one form of family violence is present, all members of the family are at risk!



Animal Abuse

- ❖ 76% of animal abusers also abuse another family member
- ❖ Animal Abuse alone is a serious crime... but, it can also be an indicator of other violence in the family

Source: Association of Prosecuting Attorneys



Animal Abuse



❖ Unless animal abuse, neglect and cruelty are taken seriously, we are missing opportunities to intervene and disrupt the cycle of violence that includes people as well as animals

— Tamara Ward,
Retired Social Worker, CYFD
Positive Links Board Member



Positive Links Training



❖ Link Training NM

- The Link
- Therapy Options for Abusers
- Investigation Crimes Against Animals

- CEU/CE/CLE credits available



Why Laws & Policies Should Address and Incorporate “The Link”



CASE EXAMPLE: Bernalillo County deputies responded to a domestic violence aggravated battery call where the male offender had strangled and beaten the female victim who was his wife.

- ❖ Future was spotted by deputies with 3rd degree burns on his back.
- ❖ The male was charged with aggravated battery with great bodily harm domestic violence and extreme animal cruelty.
- ❖ The female later recanted—**but** the **animal-related charges remained** and the male was indicted for animal cruelty.



New Mexico Law and Policy Needs

(a non-exhaustive list)

- More investment in **infrastructure** to respond to cases: e.g., funding for professional trainings, support for co-sheltering models, more support for program services like CARE
- Require and institutionalize **cross-reporting** between relevant agencies and professionals; a study may be warranted
- Amend the *Family Violence Protection Act* to include harm to a victim's companion animals as **a type of domestic abuse** and allow for **protective orders** to include animals
- **Make animal sexual abuse (bestiality) illegal**



Bestiality in New Mexico

This is a difficult topic to discuss.

But here's why it's important we do:

- Yes, it is sexual abuse and it harms animals.
- But it often does not lead to animal cruelty charges.
- Fact: It is significantly connected to harm to children and adults.
- Yes, it happens in New Mexico.




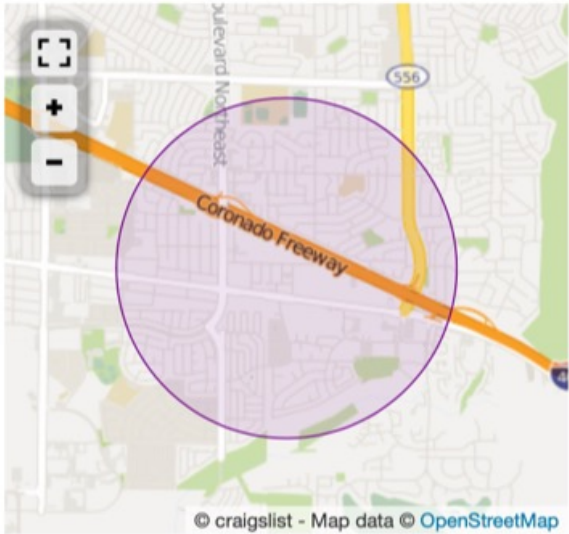
October 12, 2020

Report to the APNM Cruelty Hotline

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I'm Looking for mare for "bonding" - \$100 (Near Albuquerque)



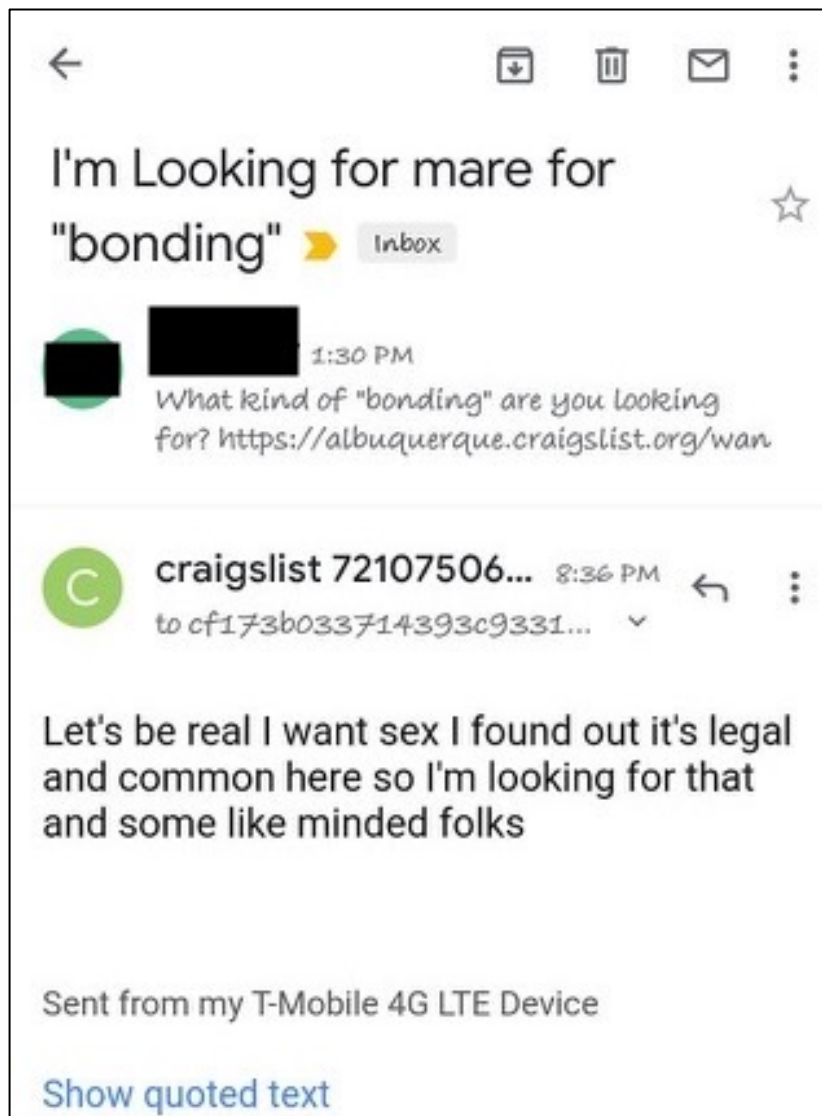


I'm looking for someone who owns a mare that will let me join them for special riding sessions. Anyone who provides this service or can point me in the right direction would be appreciated. (I will be willing to pay a fee per session) Thanks

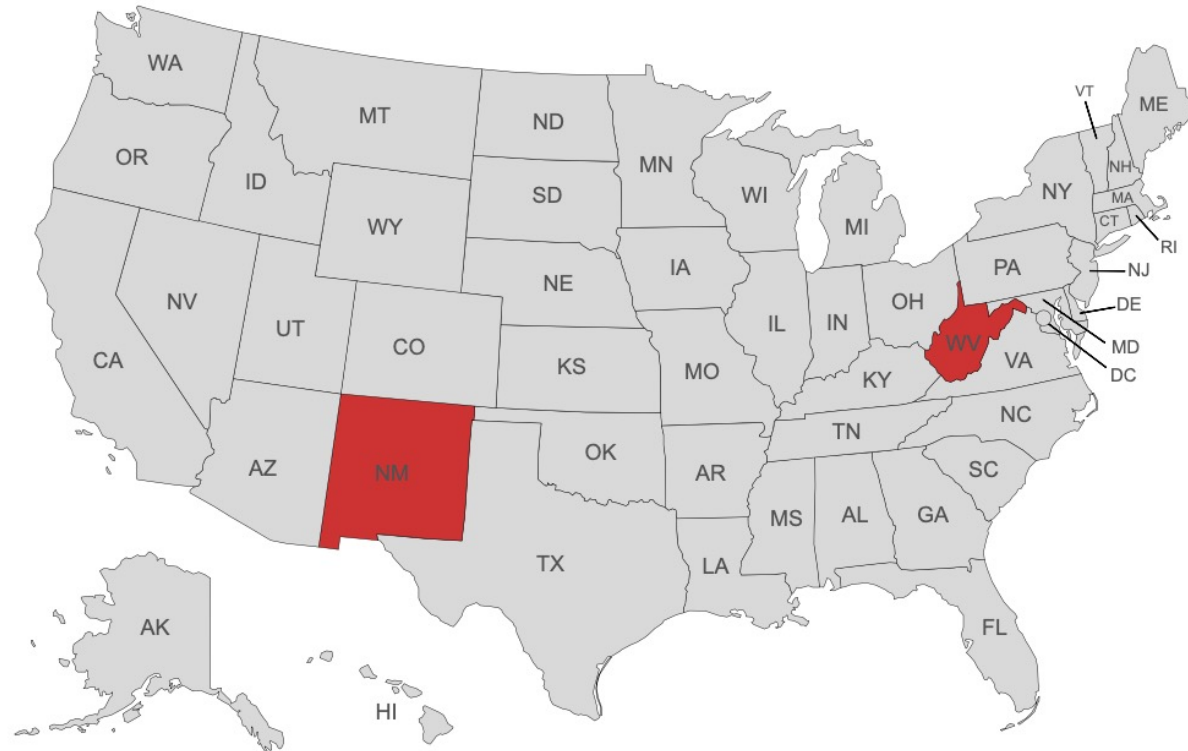


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Currently,
New Mexico is **one of only 2 states** in the U.S.
where sexually abusing an animal
is **NOT** a crime.





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