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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/16

SPONSOR Rodriguez **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Care for Animals of Domestic Violence Victims **SB** 55

ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

This bill appropriates \$500.0 from the general fund to CYFD for expenditure in fiscal year 2017 to enhance the system of temporary care and housing of animals of victims of domestic violence. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2017 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill appropriates \$500.0 from the general fund to CYFD for expenditure in fiscal year 2017 to enhance the system of temporary care and housing of animals of victims of domestic violence. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2017 shall revert to the general fund. This appropriation is not included in the agency request or the Executive and LFC recommendations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In FY15, CYFD received a special appropriation of \$50.0 and in FY16 a recurring amount of \$50.0 to contract with the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV) to

develop and implement a program that provides temporary placement statewide for companion animals of victims of domestic violence who are going into shelter. The NMCADV is working with Animal Protection of New Mexico to establish foster homes statewide which includes veterinary care and safe placement. Very few statewide domestic violence shelters have kennels for dogs and small animals or work with local animal shelters to house animals.

Abuse or threatened abuse of pets is a common power and control tactic used by abusers; 71% of pet owning women entering women's shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed, or threatened family pets for revenge or to psychologically control victims (NCADV, AHA). Up to 65 percent of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets when they leave (Carlisle-Frank, Frank and Nielson, 2004). In review of literature, the American Humane Association reports that 68 percent of battered women reported violence occurred toward their animals and 87% of these incidents occurred in the presence of the women to psychologically control and coerce them. Pets may suffer unexplained injuries, health problems, permanent disabilities at the hands of abusers, or disappear from home.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD maintains performance measures related to the number of pets successfully placed in foster care while the victim is in shelter.

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