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SENATE MEMORIAL 36

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ANIMAL SHELTERING BOARD TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON
THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FUND TO LOWER THE COST OF
SPAYING AND NEUTERING CATS AND DOGS.

WHEREAS, the impact of homeless pets on New Mexico is
staggering and affects the safety and health of the public; and

WHEREAS, unspayed cats can give birth to eighteen kittens
a year, and unspayed dogs can give birth to twenty-two puppies
a year; and

WHEREAS, the spaying and neutering of cats and dogs
reduces the number of homeless pets as well as the number of
reproductive cancers; and

WHEREAS, many New Mexicans cannot afford to spay or neuter
their pets due to the high cost of the procedure, and because
low-cost spay and neuter programs have been cut from budgets,

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1 pet overpopulation has become rampant; and

2 WHEREAS, destroying ten million to twenty million cats and
3 dogs a year costs two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000)
4 annually; and

5 WHEREAS, the increase in homeless pets has increased
6 animal cruelty cases, costing law enforcement time, money and
7 personnel; and

8 WHEREAS, a spay and neuter fund, created from a surcharge
9 of twenty dollars (\$20.00) added to fines for animal cruelty or
10 animal ordinance violations or from a check-off on state income
11 tax forms or driver's license renewal forms, would decrease the
12 number of homeless pets, thereby reducing the public health and
13 safety hazard;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
15 OF NEW MEXICO that the animal sheltering board be requested to
16 conduct a study to establish the feasibility of creating a fund
17 to specifically aid low-income households in sterilizing,
18 vaccinating and spaying or neutering their pets and to educate
19 the public on the importance of spaying and neutering; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the animal sheltering board for further
22 distribution.

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