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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/15
SPONSOR Rodriguez **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Care for Animals of Domestic Violence Victims **SB** 178

ANALYST Klundt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 178 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department to provide temporary care and housing of animals of victims of domestic violence.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY16 shall revert to the general fund.

This appropriation was not included in the agency's budget request or the Executive or LFC recommendation. This appropriation represents a 600 percent increase of the FY15 special appropriation for this purpose.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In FY15, CYFD received a special appropriation of \$50 thousand and contracted 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. Currently, the NMCADV is working with Animal Protection of New Mexico to establish foster

homes statewide including 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.

According to CYFD, abuse or threatened abuse of pets is a common power and control tactic used by abusers; 71 percent 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 percent 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 will maintain performance measures related to the number of pets successfully placed in safe temporary care while the victim is in shelter.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Any additional administrative duties associated with implementing the provisions of the bill can be absorbed by existing staff.

ANA/bb