A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO INCLUDE TRAINING ON THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE IN TRAINING DELIVERED TO APPROPRIATE FIELD PERSONNEL.

     WHEREAS, many studies have shown the strong correlation between animal abuse, child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse;

     WHEREAS, often when one form of violence is present in a family, other forms are present or will develop in the future;

WHEREAS, 76% of animal abusers also abuse another family member.

WHEREAS, 71% of domestic violence shelter residents with companion animals reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family animals as revenge or psychological control over the victim.

WHEREAS, 32% of domestic violence shelter residents with companion animals reported their children had hurt or killed animals.

WHEREAS, people with a history of animal abuse are approximately three times more likely to commit a violent crime.

WHEREAS, nearly 50% of domestic violence victims delay leaving their abusers due to concern for the safety and welfare of their companion animals.

WHEREAS, animal abuse is often the most publicly visible sign of family violence and therefore an important indicator of what may be happening within the home to children, adults and elders.

     WHEREAS, the children, youth and families department and the department of public safety employ many dedicated workers whose jobs include the delivery of services and the performance of duties in homes throughout our state, and those workers are uniquely positioned to identify instances of family abuse including animal abuse, child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse;

     WHEREAS, training for workers in those departments on how to identify signs of abuse of animals, could help highlight and prevent existing or potential child, domestic or elder abuse;

     NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families department and the department of public safety be requested to incorporate training on the link between animal abuse and family violence in training curriculum for field workers and all other appropriate staff members; and

     BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretaries of children, youth and families and public safety.