1	CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
2	RESOLUTION NO. 2009-13
3	INTRODUCED BY:
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5	Mayor Coss
6	Councilor Dominguez
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10	A RESOLUTION
11	SUPPORTING LEGISLATION FOR PROTECTION OF PETS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
12	SITUATIONS.
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14	WHEREAS, more than 64 million U.S. households have one or more domestic companion
15	animals (dog or cat), and 85% of domestic violence shelters in the U.S. indicate that battered family
16	members seeking shelter have reported incidents of pet abuse; and
17	WHEREAS, since abusers often use animals as leverage, close to 50% of domestic violence
18	victims who are in abusive domestic situations don't leave home because of fear that their partners
19	will abuse or kill the family pet left behind; and
20	WHEREAS, Orders of Protection by family courts are the legal tool used to extend
21	protection to a battered individual and family pet in a dangerous domestic situation in the home; and
22	WHEREAS, only 11 states to date have passed legislation which permits Orders of
23	Protection to include family pets, recognizing that pets are important and beloved members of a
24	family, and many domestic violence shelters do not permit pets to be housed in the shelter; and
25	WHEREAS, the Attorney General of New Mexico is planning to offer a proposed
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amendment to New Mexico's laws for consideration by the Legislature at its next session which
 would provide for family pets to be included in Orders of Protection, thereby bestowing on the State
 of New Mexico the opportunity for the honor of becoming the 12th state in the nation to have in place
 this compassionate protection for beloved pets; and

5 WHEREAS, this Resolution has been drafted as a sign of support for changing the laws in
6 the state of New Mexico to help protect family pets from dangerous environments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE that the Governing Body urges the Legislature of the great State of New
Mexico to give favorable consideration to the Attorney General's proposal for the inclusion of
domestic companion animals in Orders of Protection for battered individuals and their families, such
that this compassionate and humane protection becomes the law of this State.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 28th day of January, 2009.

il Coss

DAVID COSS, MAYOR

13 14 15 16 ATTEST: 17 18 Handa 19 Xolanda yWigil,Vity clerk 20 21 APPROVED AS TO FORM: 22 23 24 FRANK D. KATZ, CITY ATTORNEY 25 mdb/ca/jpmb/2009 res/Animal Protection

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