

# 2012 Scorecard

## NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATURE

### Letter from the Director

The joy and potential within every living being is pure inspiration for us at Animal Protection Voters. When we compare *what can be* to *what is*, we have to strive for better standards of care and consideration of animals in our state. Laws are an important foundation for those standards.



The 2012 legislative session was like many other “short sessions:” Many animal issues were raised, and we needed to understand, track, evaluate and in some cases weigh in on them. But the limited 30-day session meant many bills—animal-related and otherwise—didn’t have even one hearing. More than anything else, short sessions offer APV the chance to stay connected with lawmakers and remind them that animals matter to New Mexicans.

Even so, APV promoted a handful of bills and opposed at least two, and it’s safe to say nothing really changed for animal-related policies, for better or for worse. Sometimes staying even is the best one can hope for in the process.

One thing is certain in APV’s work in Santa Fe to represent the interests of animals and the people who care about them: APV’s constant and abiding presence is needed. We fight against policies that would threaten or harm New Mexico’s vulnerable animals, and we work

to advance better laws. Your constituent voices lend even more power for the animals’ sake.

As we prepare and organize for the more comprehensive, always hectic, and incredibly important “long session” in 2013, we need your support so we can “change the laws to change the animals’ lives”. Your generous contribution can make all the difference. Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elisabeth Jennings".

Executive Director



*Jake Jennings says, “Thank you for standing up for me and my friends!”*

# Pro-Animal Legislation (APV Supported)

## Senate Bill 131, Protective Vests for Police Dogs

Sponsor: Senator Howie Morales (D-Silver City)

This bill would amend the law enforcement protection fund to allow the purchase of protective equipment for police dogs.

*No hearings held.*

## Senate Joint Memorial 40, Assistance Animal Act Compliance

Sponsor: Senator Nancy Rodriguez (D-Santa Fe)

This bill requested the Governor's commission on disability to study measures to promote compliance with the assistance animal act, since there are frequent media reports of people with disabilities whose access to public places is denied, even though state law allows access to public venues for people with disabilities who are accompanied by an assistance animal.

*Votes taken in Senate Rules Committee, Senate Public Affairs Committee and on the Senate Floor. Voting for the bill: All Senators, except two excused: Senators Bernadette Sanchez and Martinez.*

## Senate Joint Memorial 30, County Governance Task Force

Sponsor: Senator Linda Lopez (D-Albuquerque)

This bill requests the local government division of the Department of Finance and Administration to form a county governance task force to review existing laws and rules regarding county governance and the potential for a county home rule provision, similar to that which is available to municipalities. APNM supports this evaluation, in support of counties that demonstrate professionalism and accountability to citizens and that wish to exercise more flexibility and self-governance.

*Votes taken in Senate Rules Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee. Voting for the bill: Senators Burt, Feldman, Ingle, Keman, Lopez, Muñoz, M. Sanchez (Senators Jennings, Wirth excused).*



## Scores

The 2012 session presented enormous challenges for developing a meaningful scorecard, since so few votes were taken on animal bills. No formal scorecard is being presented for the 2012 session since there is no equitable way to present voting across legislators. However, legislators' votes taken on legislation affecting animals are noted along with the bill descriptions.

Citizens who want to understand how their legislators have voted on matters important to animals in previous legislative sessions can refer to Animal Protection Voters' scorecards at [apvnm.org](http://apvnm.org).



## Senate Memorial 75, Study Animal Fur Trapping

Sponsor: Senator Tim Eichenberg (D-Albuquerque)

This bill would request the New Mexico Legislative Council to direct the appropriate committee to hear testimony on animal fur trapping in New Mexico.

*No hearings held.*

## Senate Bill 62, Animal Cruelty Definitions

Sponsor: Senator Mary Jane Garcia (D-Doña Ana)

This bill would provide stronger protections for animals by enhancing penalties and expanding what constitutes cruelty to animals. During the 2013 session, amendments to the animal cruelty statutes will be a high priority among APV-supported bills.

*No hearings held.*



## Senate Bill 56, Hay Transportation Permits & Distances

Sponsor: Senator Stuart Ingle (R-Portales)

This bill would provide for special permits for hay transportation and eliminate distance limits for hay transportation. Given the extreme drought and hay shortages, this bill would facilitate getting feed to animals in New Mexico.

*Votes taken in Senate Conservation Committee, Senate Corporations Committee, Senate Public Affairs Committee, on Senate Floor, House Transportation & Public Works Committee, and on House Floor. SIGNED INTO LAW. Voting for the bill: All Senators and Representatives except five excused: Senators Boitano, Morales, Nava, Neville, and Representative Saavedra.*

PASSED



# Anti-Animal Legislation (APV Opposed)

## Senate Joint Resolution 11, Protection of Right to Hunt & Fish, CA

Sponsor: Senator George Muñoz (D-Gallup)

This bill would amend New Mexico's Constitution ostensibly for the "protection of the right to hunt and fish". However, in reality the bill would create a safe harbor for potentially inhumane, wasteful and unsportsmanlike practices. This measure is unnecessary, and could prevent counties, cities and other

local governments from protecting the public from unscrupulous wildlife-related practices, even if they were intended to protect local wildlife populations or public safety. This measure would benefit the few at the expense of many New Mexicans. *No hearings held*

## Senate Memorial 50, No Additional Wilderness Near Pecos

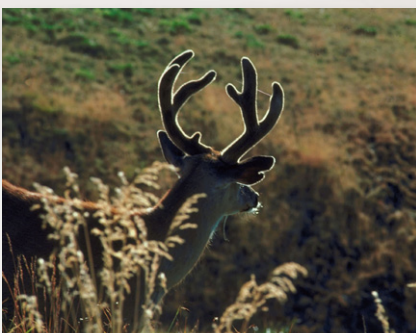
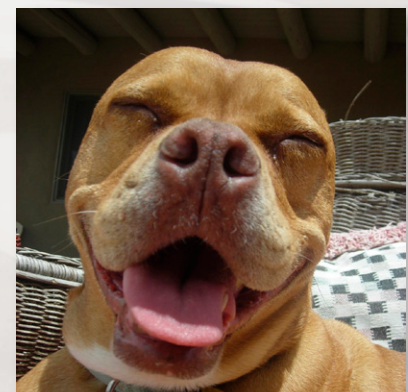
Sponsor: Senator Phil Griego (D-San Jose)

This bill requests New Mexico's Congressional delegation to oppose designation of additional wilderness area around the existing Pecos Wilderness. *No hearings held.*

to prevent the introduction of legislation that would unfairly target and limit ownership of so-called "pit bull" breeds. Instead, APV supports strengthening the state's Dangerous Dog Act to consider providing financial restitution to those harmed when irresponsible people keep dangerous or potentially dangerous dogs without taking proper precautions, as current law mandates, regardless of dog breed.

## Breed-Specific Legislation

APV joined many other New Mexicans in lobbying the legislature and the Governor



# Looking Ahead to the Important 2013 Legislative Session

## The Power of the Law

“ It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me, and I think that’s pretty important. ”

Martin Luther King Jr.

**T**hese powerful words paint a picture, in the starkest terms, about why strong laws are essential for protecting vulnerable ones from harm. If you’re an animal in New Mexico, it’s clear you need better protection under the law.

These are the cases that stick in your head: A horse, bleeding, starving, spent, pawing at the ground in pain. A dog’s haunted eyes standing out from his skeletal body on the end of a chain. Both incidents happened recently in New Mexico and are not specifically defined as felony crimes.

Unacceptable animal cruelty happens across all New Mexican socio-economic levels. Animal cruelty is inherently wrong and is also linked to other violent and destructive conduct, such as family violence, that threatens our communities.

Extreme animal cruelty became a felony in New Mexico in 1999. Some amendments to the statute have been passed to better protect animals in research laboratories and to make it easier to seize animals living in cruel situations. But otherwise the law has been the same for thirteen years, and a pattern of loopholes through which abusers escape accountability is now clear.

In recent legislative sessions, bills to strengthen the animal cruelty law have progressed through key committees. But all bills, and especially those with criminal penalties, require massive public support to become law. So far our voices have not been strong enough.

More than ever, we need you to push for stronger and more effective animal cruelty laws – dogs, cats, horses, and other vulnerable populations are counting on you:



1. **Sign the petition** for stronger animal cruelty laws and share with your friends. GOAL: 5,000 supporters by January 2013! (sign online, download a hard copy at [apvnm.org/petition/](http://apvnm.org/petition/) or call 505-265-2322).
2. Save the Date for **Animal Lobby Day** on **February 25, 2013** at the State Capitol in Santa Fe. This all-day event is a unique opportunity to connect with people who care about animals from across the state, and make a point to legislators that animals matter. Flex your political muscle! GOAL: 200 attendees at the press conference in the Capitol Rotunda!



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