



# SENATE BILL 57

“Pet Food Fee for Neutering & Sheltering”

## Help New Mexico's Struggling Families & Pets While Saving Local Tax Dollars

### A Grave, Costly Problem



- More than 100,000 dogs and cats enter New Mexico’s animal shelters
- Over 20,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in our shelters
- Animal control and sheltering costs our communities more than \$51 Million—and at least **\$38 Million of these costs are paid by taxpayer dollars** every year

A 2012 Senate-requested study showed that the solution is to invest significant dollars in statewide spay/neuter—and the best, most effective, equitable, and feasible funding source is a pet food manufacturer fee.

### The Solution: A Tried-and-True Funding Mechanism



**Pet food manufacturers** will pay **\$100/year** after a **3-year phase-in** for each product of dog and cat food and treats **registered** to be sold in New Mexico.

#### Phases in over 3 years:



The bill includes a **6-year sunset clause** so the Legislature can assess the impacts of the fee increase.

#### It does NOT apply to:



- ..... Livestock feed or any other animal feed
- ..... Prescription diets
- ..... Small manufacturers with annual gross revenue of \$3 million or less
- ..... Retailers or consumers

Fee is collected by the **New Mexico Department of Agriculture**, and most funds are transferred to the **NM Board of Veterinary Medicine** for use and distribution to spay/neuter service providers.



#### Recipients of the Funds



- 91%** Spay/Neuter surgeries for animals of income-qualified families
- 4%** NM Dept of Agriculture for fee registration enforcement
- 5%** NM Board of Veterinary Medicine for enforcement of Animal Sheltering Act

### PROJECTED IMPACT

- \$1.47 Million per year:** Total funds the fee is expected to generate annually at the completion of the phase-in.
- Over \$1.3 Million per year:** Amount of annual funds that would go directly to spay/neuter services.
- 18,000-26,000 per year:** Number of dog and cat spay/neuter surgeries projected to be funded by annual revenue generated.

**There is no evidence that the fee increase will affect what customers pay for dog and cat food.** But if manufacturers did pass down the fee to customers with a proportional increase in retail prices, pet owners would see an average increase of only about \$1.50 per year per pet (once the fee phases in) to feed their dogs and cats.

# Who Supports SB 57?

In prior years and currently, supporters include:



New Mexico Association of Counties (2019 support, 2020 pending decision)

New Mexico Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association

Animal shelters, rescue groups, law enforcement and animal control officers, county commissioners, mayors and other local policymakers across the state, including those in:

Bernalillo County

Cibola County

Colfax County

Doña Ana County

Luna County

McKinley County

Quay County

San Juan County

San Miguel County

Sandoval County

Santa Fe County

Sierra County

For a full list of supporters, contact Jessica Johnson at [jessica@apvnm.org](mailto:jessica@apvnm.org)

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## Testimonials from Other States That Enacted This Measure



**Euthanasia rate is down to 4%, and available pet food products have more than doubled since fee increase.**

"I was not worried that pet food prices would increase when [Maine] passed a law that would place a fee on pet food to fund a spay/neuter program...It was apparent that the cost to the companies would be minimal...My pet food sales business continues to thrive! I know that part of the reason my business is successful is because of our position on animal welfare issues."

**Don H., Co-Owner  
Pet Food Retail Store and Dog Daycare/Boarding  
Bangor, Maine**



**The fee enacted in 2017 led to a 17% decrease in shelter intake and 35% decrease in euthanasia rates (from 2016 to 2018).**

"I have not raised our wholesale or retail prices since the implementation of fees. The fees are minimal and not even pennies on the cost of selling pet foods in WV."

**Jenn D., Dog Food and Treat Manufacturer  
Morgantown, WV**



**Euthanasia rate reduced by 43% for cats and 25% for dogs after only three years of the fee in place.**

"We have seen no noticeable cost change or availability issues for food in Maryland. Simply put, [pet food manufacturers] will move on the cost to consumers if needed, but there have not been any spikes over the past 6 years. I think this is an excellent model for other states."

**Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, Chief Animal Control Officer Talbot County  
Executive Director, Talbot Humane  
President, Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, Inc**

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