

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-22-73 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Tammy Fiebelkorn

1 RESOLUTION

2 DIRECTING THE ANIMAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH THE
3 UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCIENCE CENTER COLLEGE OF NURSING TO
4 COLLECT OTHERWISE DISPOSED-OF ANIMAL TISSUES IN CITY-OWNED OR
5 CITY-SPONSORED SPAY AND NEUTER CLINICS FOR DONATION TO THE
6 UNM HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.

7 WHEREAS, millions of animals are used in biomedical research every year
8 in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of dogs are used in laboratory research
10 every year in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, increased concern for animal welfare and animal rights has
12 brought a greater focus on ethical issues of animal testing; and

13 WHEREAS, the movement to support and facilitate the development of
14 alternatives to the use of lives animals in biomedical research has grown
15 substantially in the U.S. and internationally; and

16 WHEREAS, the City's Animal Welfare Department performed 9,966
17 spay/neuter surgeries of shelter residents in 2021 and plans to dramatically
18 increase this number if coming years; and

19 WHEREAS, animal tissue from the City's veterinarian spay and neuter
20 clinics is currently disposed of as biohazardous material; and

21 WHEREAS, donating otherwise-disposed of animal tissues for biomedical
22 research will reduce biological wastes from spay and neuter clinics; and

23 WHEREAS, the ethical principle of replacing live animals in research
24 whenever possible is enshrined in U.S. animal protection law (e.g., Animal
25 Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.); and

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1 WHEREAS, the proposed research taking place in the lab of Xiaozhong
2 John Yu, MD, Ph.D, MPH in the College of Nursing will possibly result in a new
3 method to reduce the number of animals used in laboratory testing by using
4 left over tissue from spay and neuter clinics to mimic live animals; and

5 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque has a unique opportunity to participate
6 in this ground-breaking research which could ultimately lead to a dramatic
7 reduction in the use of animals in laboratory research.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
9 ALBUQUERQUE:

10 Section 1. The City of Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department shall
11 partner with the University of New Mexico (UNM) Science Center College of
12 Nursing to donate for biomedical research, the otherwise disposed of animal
13 tissues generated from City-owned and City-sponsored spay and neuter
14 clinics.

15 Section 2. The Animal Welfare Department shall enter into a written
16 agreement with the UNM College of Nursing requiring that all animal tissue
17 donated pursuant to this Resolution will be utilized solely to create in-vitro cell
18 culture models as an alternative to lab testing on live animals.