

January 31, 2023

Michael Eshleman
Sandoval County Attorney
P. O. Box 40
Bernalillo, NM 87004

Dear Mr. Eshleman,

Thank you for reaching out to Sandoval County Cooperative Extension office regarding the proposed Sandoval County Ordinance on Wildlife Feeding.

Our office receives numerous calls each year regarding wildlife damage to livestock, poultry and on occasion small pets. Some of the wildlife do damage to landscapes and gardens, in particular rabbits and skunks. Weather conditions such as drought drive wildlife into residential areas in search of food.

The problem with feeding wildlife, even for short periods, is that they become dependent on the feed thus are reluctant to leave and search elsewhere. When the food provided stops, new problems arise.

A prime example is lions, bobcats, coyotes, and bears come down from the Jemez and Sandia Mountains to eat household waste, eventually endangering pets and humans. We all love wildlife but inviting them to our neighborhoods is not good and will provide highly negative consequences.

My other concern is that outside of residential areas, farmers and ranchers provide salt blocks, free choice minerals, hay, and molasses tubs for livestock. This is part of management and proper husbandry, but wildlife also benefit. My hope is the ordinance does not hinder or punish our livestock producers.

In conclusion, an ordinance to ban the deliberate/intentional feeding of wildlife is good. Please note that issuing a wildlife feeding permit seems contradictory.

Respectfully,
(s)

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