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SENATE

S. No. 2541

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 631 and 1899, taking into consideration HBN 4654)

Prepared jointly by the Committees on Health and Demography and on Finance with Senators Villar, Flavio, Cayetano and Drilon as authors

**“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL AND ELIMINATION OF RABIES,
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SEC. 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2006".
2

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the declared policy of the State to protect
4 and promote the right to health of the people. Towards this end, a system for the
5 control, prevention of the spread, and eventual eradication of Rabies shall be provided
6 and the need for responsible Dog ownership established.
7

8 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms
9 shall mean:

10 a. **Bitten** refers to an act by which a Dog seizes, cuts or grips with its teeth
11 so that the skin of a person has been wounded, pierced or scratched.

12 b. **Concerned Officials** refers to barangay officials, health workers, police
13 officers or government veterinarians.

14 c. **Dog** refers to a common quadruped domestic animal belonging to the
15 order carnivora (male or female), scientifically known as *canis familiaris*.

16 d. **Euthanasia Drug** refers to a drug used for humane killing of Dogs.

17 e. **Impound** refers to seize and hold in the custody of the law.

18 f. **Owner** refers to any person keeping, harboring or having charge, care or
19 control of a Dog including his/her representative.

20 g. **Pound** refers to a public enclosure for stray animals.

1 h. **Public Place** refers to any place open to the public like parks, malls,
2 markets, streets, etc.

3 i. **Rabies** refers to a fatal disease caused by a lyssa virus, transmitted
4 mainly through the bite of an infected animal and is characterized by muscle
5 paralysis, hydrophobia and aerophobia, and others.

6 j. **Rabies Vaccination** refers to the inoculation of a Dog with a Rabies
7 vaccine by a licensed government or private veterinarian or trained individual
8 under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The services of the said
9 trained individual shall be limited only to Rabies Vaccination injection in Dogs
10 and only during government mass vaccination campaigns.

11 k. **Stray Dog** refers to any Dog leaving its Owner's place or premise and no
12 longer under the effective control of the Owner.

13 l. **Veterinary Neuroleptic Drugs** refer to drugs that depress the function of
14 the nervous system e.g. anesthetic, tranquilizer, sedative.

15
16 **SEC. 4. National Rabies Prevention and Control Program.** - It is hereby
17 mandated that there shall be a National Rabies Prevention and Control Program. The
18 program shall be a multi-agency effort in controlling and eliminating Rabies in the
19 country. Among its component activities include mass vaccination of Dogs, Impounding
20 of Stray Dogs, conduct of information and education campaign on the prevention and
21 control of Rabies, provision on pre-exposure treatment to high risk personnel and post
22 exposure treatment to animal bite victims as well as the encouragement of the practice
23 of responsible Dog ownership. The program shall be implemented by the Department of
24 Agriculture (DA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Interior and Local
25 Government (DILG) and Department of Education (DepEd), as well as Local
26 Government Units (LGUs) with the assistance of Non-Governmental Organizations
27 (NGOs).

28
29 **SEC. 5 . Responsibilities of Dog Owners.** – All Dog Owners shall be required
30 to:

31 a. Have their Dog vaccinated against Rabies at three months old and every
32 year thereafter and maintain a registration card which shall contain all
33 vaccinations conducted on their Dog, for accurate record purposes.

34 b. Submit their Dog for mandatory registration.

35 c. Maintain control over their Dog and not allow it to roam the streets or any
36 Public Place without a leash.

37 d. Be a responsible Owner by providing their Dog with proper grooming,
38 adequate food and clean shelter.

1 e. Within twenty-four (24) hours, report immediately any Dog biting incident
2 to the Concerned Officials for investigation or any appropriate action and place
3 such Dog under observation or control by the LGU where the Dog Owner
4 resides.

5 f. Assist the Dog bite victim immediately and shoulder the medical expenses
6 incurred and other incidental expenses relative to the victim's injuries.
7

8 **SEC. 6. Responsibilities of Government Agencies.** - The following
9 government agencies, which shall jointly implement the National Rabies Prevention and
10 Control Program, shall be tasked to:

11
12 A. Department of Agriculture

13
14 1. Improve and upgrade existing animal Rabies laboratory diagnostic
15 capabilities to ensure better services to the people.

16 2. Ensure the availability and adequate supply of animal anti-Rabies vaccine
17 at all times.

18 3. Undertake free anti-Rabies Vaccination of Dogs.

19 4. Maintain and improve animal Rabies surveillance system.

20 5. Establish and maintain Rabies free zone in coordination with the LGUs.

21 6. Facilitate for the approval of the use of Veterinary Neuroleptic and
22 Euthanasia Drugs by the DOH and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
23 (PDEA).

24 7. Strengthen the training of field personnel and the information education
25 and communication (IEC) activities on Rabies prevention and control and
26 responsible Dog ownership.

27 8. Conduct research on Rabies and its control in coordination with other
28 agencies.

29 9. Encourage collaborative activities with the DOH, DepEd, DILG, NGOs and
30 other concerned sectors.

31
32 B. Department of Health

33
34 1. Ensure the availability and adequate supply of human anti-Rabies vaccine
35 in animal bite treatment centers at all times and shall coordinate with other
36 implementing agencies and concerned NGOs for this purpose.

1 2. Provide post-exposure treatment at the minimum expense to individuals
2 Bitten by animals suspected of being rabid which will consist of the initial vaccine
3 and immunoglobulin dose.

4 3. Provide pre-exposure treatment to high-risk personnel, e.g. laboratory
5 staff, veterinarians, animal handlers, vaccinators and other persons working with
6 Rabies virus for free.

7 4. Coordinate with the DA in the development of appropriate health
8 education strategy to inform the public on Rabies prevention and control and
9 responsible Dog ownership.

10 5. Develop and maintain a surveillance system.

11 6. Encourage collaborative activities with the DA, DepEd, DILG, NGOs and
12 other concerned sectors.

13 7. Approve the registration of Veterinary Neuroleptic and Euthanasia Drugs
14 in coordination with the PDEA.

15
16 C. Department of Education

17
18 1. Strengthen Rabies education program through school health
19 teaching/curriculum;

20 2. Assist in the Dog mass immunization campaigns in the community.

21 3. Encourage collaborative activities with the DA, DOH, DILG, NGOs and
22 other concerned sectors.

23 4. Integrate proper information and education on responsible Dog ownership
24 in the relevant subjects in the Elementary and High School levels.

25
26 **SEC. 7. Responsibilities of the LGUs.** – LGUs, in their respective localities,
27 must:

28
29 1. Vaccinate Dogs routinely to cover the whole Dog population.

30 2. Strictly enforce Dog Impounding activities and field control to eliminate
31 Stray Dogs.

32 3. Ensure that Dogs are leashed or confined within the premises of the
33 Owner's house or Owner's fenced surroundings.

34 4. Ensure that all Dogs are properly immunized and registered.

35 5. Allocate funds to augment the implementation of the National Rabies
36 Prevention and Control Program, particularly on the financing of supplies and
37 vaccines needed for immunization.

1 6. Ensure the enforcement of Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8485 or "The
2 Animal Welfare Act of 1998".

3 7. Enact additional local ordinances that will support the National Rabies
4 Prevention and Control Program that should include the regulation of treatment
5 locally known as "tandok."

6 8. Prohibit the slaughter and trade of Dogs for meat.

7 9. With respect to cities and first class municipalities, establish and maintain
8 a Dog Pound where Impounded Dogs shall be kept, in accordance with Section 9
9 herein, *Provided*, that the other municipalities, may, on their own, establish a Dog
10 Pound or opt to share the expense of establishing and maintaining a Dog Pound
11 with other adjoining municipalities.

12 10. For purposes of ensuring the administrative feasibility of implementing the
13 provisions of this Act, and subject to paragraph 7 of this Section, the barangay
14 shall collect the fines imposed under Section 11 hereof.

15 Any and all fines collected pursuant to this Act shall be used for the
16 enhancement of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program within the
17 locality concerned, as well as the achievement of the objectives envisioned in
18 this Act.

19
20 The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall ensure
21 compliance of these responsibilities by the LGUs.

22
23 **SEC. 8. Assistance of NGOs and the Academe.** - The agencies tasked to
24 implement the anti-Rabies program shall seek the assistance and participation of NGOs
25 in any of the following activities:

26
27 1. Community mobilization.

28 2. Health education /information dissemination on Rabies and responsible
29 Dog ownership.

30 3. Mass anti-Rabies campaign.

31 4. Surveillance/reporting of Rabies cases in animals and humans.

32 5. Any other activities geared towards the prevention and complete
33 eradication of Rabies.

34
35 **SEC. 9. Impounding, Field Control and Disposition of Unregistered, Stray
36 and Unvaccinated Dogs.** - Unregistered, Stray or unvaccinated Dogs shall be put in
37 Dog Pounds and disposed of, taking into consideration the following guidelines:

1 1. Unregistered, Stray or unvaccinated Dogs shall be Impounded and kept in
2 the LGU's designated Dog Pound.

3 2. Impounded Dogs not claimed after three days from the Dog Pound shall
4 be placed for adoption to qualified persons, with the assistance of an animal
5 welfare NGO, when feasible, or otherwise disposed of in any manner authorized,
6 subject to the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as
7 the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998."

8 3. A fee shall be paid by Owners of Impounded Dogs to the LGU concerned,
9 pursuant to Section 7 hereof.

10
11 **SEC. 10. Dog Population Control.** - In furtherance of the policy of this Act to
12 eradicate Rabies, there is the need to control the Dog population and minimize the
13 number of unwanted Stray Dogs. As such, it is hereby mandated:

14
15 1. That the DA, DOH, DILG, DepEd, LGUs, with the assistance of NGOs,
16 shall undertake an educational and promotional campaign on responsible Dog
17 Ownership, including the option of spaying or neutering their Dogs.

18 2. That the LGUs shall provide an incentive system whereby Owners of Dogs
19 which have been spayed or neutered will be given a subsidized or discounted pet
20 registration fee.

21 3. That Dogs which have been Impounded three times shall only be released
22 after having been spayed or neutered, at the expense of the Dogs' Owner.

23
24 **SEC.11. Penalties.** -

25
26 1. Dog Owners who fail or refuse to have their Dog registered and
27 immunized against Rabies shall be punished by a fine of Two Thousand Pesos
28 (P2,000.00).

29 2. Dog Owners who refuse to have their Dog vaccinated against Rabies
30 shall be liable to pay for the vaccination of both the Dog and the individuals Bitten
31 by their Dog.

32 3. Dog Owners who refuse to have their Dog put under observation after said
33 Dog has Bitten an individual shall be meted a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos
34 (P10,000.00).

35 4. Dog Owners who refuse to have their Dog put under observation and do
36 not shoulder the medical expenses of the person Bitten by their Dog shall be
37 meted a fine of Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00).

1 5. Dog Owners who refuse to put leash on their Dogs when they are brought
2 outside the house shall be meted a fine of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) for
3 each incident.

4 6. An Impounded Dog shall be released to its Owner upon payment of a fine
5 of not less than Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) but not more than One Thousand
6 Pesos (P1,000).

7
8 **SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The DA, in coordination with
9 the DOH, DILG, DepEd, and NGOs shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for
10 the effective implementation of this Act.

11
12 **SEC. 13. *Appropriations.*** - The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos
13 (P100,000,000.00) necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be initially
14 charged against the appropriations of the DOH, DA, DILG and DepEd under the
15 General Appropriations Act. For the LGUs, the requirements shall be taken from their
16 Internal Revenue Allotment and other local funds. Thereafter, such sums as may be
17 necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General
18 Appropriations Acts.

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20 **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** - In case any provision of this Act is declared
21 unconstitutional, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

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23 **SEC. 15. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
25 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

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27 Approved,