



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4654

BY REPRESENTATIVES ANTONINO-CUSTODIO, DEFENSOR (M.), YAPHA,
ABANTE, MACIAS, MANDANAS, SOON-RUIZ, CODILLA, MAGSAYSAY (E.),
ABAYON, PETILLA, PINGOY, VILLAROSA, ESPINA, BONDOC, NANTES,
CHATTO AND VILLAFUERTE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1006

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 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Rabies Act of
2 2006”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to
4 protect and promote the right to health of the people. Towards this end, a
5 system for the control, prevention of the spread, and eventual eradication of
6 rabies shall be provided.

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

1 (a) "Dog" refers to a common quadruped domestic animal belonging to
2 the order carnivora (male or female), scientifically known as *canis familiaris*;

3 (b) "Owner" refers to any person keeping, harboring or having charge,
4 care or control of a dog including his/her representative;

5 (c) "Bitten" refers to an act by which a dog seizes, cuts or grips with its
6 teeth so that the skin of a person has been wounded, pierced or scratched;

7 (d) "Rabies" refers to a fatal disease caused by a lyssa virus,
8 transmitted mainly through the bite of an infected animal and is characterized
9 by muscle paralysis, hydrophobia and aerophobia, and others;

10 (e) "Rabies vaccination" refers to the inoculation of a dog with a rabies
11 vaccine by a licensed government or private veterinarian or trained individual
12 under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The services of the said
13 trained individual shall be limited only to rabies vaccination injection in dogs
14 and only during government mass vaccination campaigns;

15 (f) "Public place" refers to any place open to the public like parks,
16 malls, markets, streets, etc.;

17 (g) "Stray dog" refers to any dog leaving its owner's place or premise
18 and no longer under the effective control of the owner;

19 (h) "Susceptible animal" refers to any mammal which can be infected
20 by rabies;

21 (i) "Leash" refers to a line for leading or restraining an animal, the
22 length of which should be approximately one meter;

1 (j) "Pound" refers to a public enclosure for stray animals;

2 (k) "Impound" refers to seize and hold in the custody of the law;

3 (l) "Concerned officials" refers to barangay officials, health workers,
4 police officers or government veterinarians; and

5 (m) "National Rabies Prevention and Control Program" refers to a
6 multi-agency program to control and eradicate rabies in the Philippines.

7 *SEC. 4. National Rabies Prevention and Control Program.* – It is
8 hereby mandated that there shall be a National Rabies Prevention and Control
9 Program. The program shall be a multi-agency effort in controlling and
10 eliminating rabies in the country. Among its component activities include
11 mass vaccination of dogs, impounding of stray dogs, conduct of information
12 and education campaign on the prevention and control of rabies, provision of
13 pre-exposure treatment to high risk personnel and post exposure treatment to
14 animal bite victims as well as the encouragement of the practice of responsible
15 dog ownership. The program shall be implemented by the Departments of
16 Agriculture (DA), Health (DOH), the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
17 and Education (DepEd), as well as local government units (LGUs) with the
18 assistance of nongovernment organizations (NGOs).

19 *SEC. 5. Responsibilities of Pet Owners.* – All dog owners shall be
20 required to:

1 (a) Have their dog vaccinated against rabies at three months old and
2 every year thereafter, either by a licensed government or private veterinarian or
3 trained individual under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian;

4 (b) Register their dogs at three months upon vaccination;

5 (c) Maintain control over their dogs and not allow them to roam the
6 streets or any public place without a leash;

7 (d) Provide their dogs with proper grooming, adequate food and clean
8 shelter;

9 (e) Report immediately within twenty-four (24) hours any dog biting
10 incident to the concerned officials for investigation or any appropriate action;

11 and

12 (f) Assist the dog bite victim immediately and shoulder the medical
13 expenses incurred and other incidental expenses relative to the victim's
14 injuries.

15 SEC. 6. *Responsibilities of Government Agencies.* – The following
16 government agencies which shall jointly implement the National Rabies
17 Prevention and Control Program shall be tasked to:

18 (a) Department of Agriculture (DA)

19 (1) Improve and upgrade existing animal rabies laboratory diagnostic
20 capabilities to ensure better services to the people;

21 (2) Ensure the availability and adequate supply of animal anti-rabies
22 vaccine at all times;

1 (3) Undertake free anti-rabies vaccination of dogs and other susceptible
2 animals;

3 (4) Maintain and improve animal rabies surveillance system;

4 (5) Establish and maintain rabies free zones;

5 (6) Encourage collaborative activities with the DOH, the DepEd, the
6 DILG, NGOs and other concerned sectors; and

7 (7) Strengthen information, education and communication activities on
8 rabies prevention and control.

9 (b) Department of Health (DOH)

10 (1) Ensure the availability and adequate supply of human anti-rabies
11 vaccine in animal bite treatment centers at all times and shall coordinate with
12 other implementing agencies and concerned NGOs for this purpose;

13 (2) Provide post-exposure treatment to individuals bitten by animals
14 suspected of being rabid which will consist of the initial vaccine and
15 immunoglobulin dose to be given for free;

16 (3) Provide pre-exposure treatment to high risk personnel, e.g.
17 laboratory staff, veterinarians, animal handlers, vaccinators and other persons
18 working with rabies virus;

19 (4) Assist in the development of appropriate health education strategy
20 to inform the public on rabies prevention and control;

21 (5) Develop and maintain a surveillance system; and

1 (6) Encourage collaborative activities with the DA, the DepEd, the
2 DILG, NGOs and other concerned sectors.

3 (c) Department of Education (DepEd)

4 (1) Assist in the dissemination of information on rabies, its prevention
5 and control through school health teachings/curricula;

6 (2) Assist in the dog mass immunization campaigns in the community;
7 and

8 (3) Encourage collaborative activities with the DA, the DOH, the
9 DepEd, NGOs and other concerned sectors.

10 *SEC. 7. Assistance of NGOs.* – The agencies tasked to implement the
11 anti-rabies program shall seek the assistance and participation of NGOs in any
12 of the following activities:

13 (a) Community mobilization;

14 (b) Health education/information dissemination on rabies;

15 (c) Mass anti-rabies campaign; and

16 (d) Surveillance/reporting of rabies cases in animals and humans.

17 *SEC. 8. Responsibilities of the LGUs.* – LGUs must implement in their
18 respective localities the following:

19 (a) Vaccinate dogs routinely to cover the whole dog population;

20 (b) Strictly enforce dog impounding activities to eliminate stray dogs;

21 (c) See to it that dogs are leashed/confined within the premises of the
22 owner's house or owner's fenced surroundings;

1 (d) Ensure that all dogs are properly immunized and registered;

2 (e) Ensure the availability of funds to augment the implementation of
3 the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program, particularly on the
4 financing of supplies and vaccines needed for immunization; and

5 (f) Ensure the enforcement of Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8485 or
6 the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998".

7 SEC. 9. *Impounding and Disposition of Unregistered, Stray and*
8 *Unvaccinated Dogs.* – Unregistered, stray or unvaccinated dogs shall be put in
9 dog pounds and disposed of, taking into consideration the following
10 guidelines:

11 (a) Unregistered, stray or unvaccinated dogs shall be impounded and
12 kept in the LGU's designated dog pound;

13 (b) Impounded dogs not claimed after five days from impound shall be
14 put up for adoption or, otherwise disposed of in any manner authorized, subject
15 to the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the
16 "Animal Welfare Act of 1998";

17 (c) A fee shall be paid by owners of impounded dogs to any authorized
18 person or entity having custody of the said dog.

19 SEC. 10. *Penalties.* –

20 (a) Any person who fails or refuses to have his dog immunized against
21 rabies shall be punished by a fine of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) or
22 imprisonment of one day or both, at the discretion of the court;

1 (b) An impounded dog shall be released to its owner upon payment of a
2 fine of not less than Five hundred pesos (P500.00) but not more than One
3 thousand pesos (P1,000.00);

4 (c) Dog owners who refuse to have their pets vaccinated against rabies
5 shall be liable to pay for the vaccination of both the animal and the individual/s
6 bitten by their dog. In addition, the dog owner shall pay for the medical
7 expenses of person bitten by his/her dog.

8 (d) Dog owners who refuse to have his/her dog put under observation
9 after said dog has bitten an individual shall be meted a fine of Twenty-five
10 thousand pesos (P25,000.00);

11 (e) Dog owners who refuse to have his/her dog put under observation
12 and refuse to shoulder the medical expenses of the person bitten by his/her dog
13 shall be meted a fine of Twenty-five thousand pesos (P25,000.00) and
14 imprisonment of one week;

15 (f) Dog owners who refuse to put leash on their dogs when they are
16 brought outside the house shall be meted a fine of Five hundred pesos
17 (P500.00) or imprisonment of one day or both; and

18 (g) Any authorized government employee who refuses or fails to
19 administer anti-rabies vaccination when necessary shall be punished by
20 suspension from office of not less than five days but not more than fifteen (15)
21 days.

1 SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DA, in
2 coordination with the DOH, the DILG and the DepEd shall issue the necessary
3 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

4 SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the
5 provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH,
6 the DA, the DILG and the DepEd under the General Appropriations Act. For
7 the LGUs, the requirements shall be taken from their Internal Revenue
8 Allotment and other local funds.

9 SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* – In case any provision of this Act is
10 declared unconstitutional, the other provisions shall remain in full force and
11 effect.

12 SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13 Approved,