

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



23 MAR 30 P3:42

**SENATE**  
**S.B. No. 2054**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Raffy T. Tulfo", written over a horizontal line.

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Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

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**AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10631, PROVIDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ANIMAL WELFARE BUREAU UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE AND GOVERN ITS OPERATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

Explanatory Note

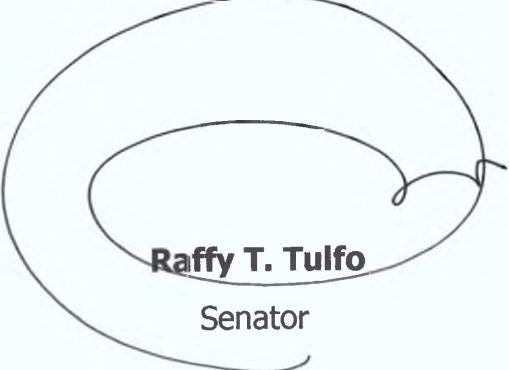
In recent years, there has been an increase in establishments that cater specifically to animals, such as standard veterinary clinics, hospitals, et hotels, cafes, and a variety of pet-friendly place. At present, the current structure of the Bureau of Animal Industry has shown weaknesses in responding to and addressing the growing welfare issues and concerns that affect a multitude of animals. As a regulatory body for animal welfare, compliance monitoring has become a burden due to a lack of dedicated and trained manpower and facilities. Implementation of the current law has been severely lacking as a result of weak cooperation from the local government units (LGUs).

With that said, this bill seeks to repeal Republic Act No. 8485 as amended by Republic Act No. 10631 by strengthening the provisions of the law relating to animal welfare; and hereby creating the Animal Welfare Bureau which is an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture. The proposed measure aims to strengthen and fortify animal welfare standards, policies, rules, and regulations by improving the system of program implementation, monitoring, and supervision, including

adjudication and response to violations. In addition, penalties have also been defined and detailed to deter individuals from violating the stipulations of this proposed act.

In a society that not only respects the rights of its people, it is imperative that the State also penalizes the ill-treatment of animals. As such, the passage of this bill is necessary as animal welfare rules and regulations would be more effective.

In light of this, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**Raffy T. Tulfo**  
Senator

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

**CHAPTER I**

**TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND DEFINITION OF TERMS**

1        **Section 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “The Revised Animal  
2 Welfare Act of 2023”.

3  
4        **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It shall be the State's policy to protect and  
5 promote good welfare for all animals by establishing a system of supervision and  
6 regulation to ensure humane treatment in all aspects of the keeping, maintaining,  
7 handling, transporting, breeding, training, treating, and use of animals. Good animal  
8 welfare involves adherence to the five basic freedoms of animals namely:

9            (1) Freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition;

10          (2) Freedom from physical discomfort and pain;

11          (3) Freedom from injury and disease;

12          (4) Freedom to express normal behaviors; and

13          (5) Freedom from fear and distress.

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**Sec. 3. Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all programs, activities, and undertakings of individuals, corporations, associations, organizations, or entities, including but not limited to animal producers, small-hold farmers, private entities, or government agencies, that:

- a. Handle, breed, train, keep, care for, transport, exhibit, display, use, or otherwise interact with any animals, whether as pets, livestock, wildlife, or animals used for education, entertainment, or show; or
- b. Own, operate, or maintain any facility that interacts with animals.

**Sec. 4. Objectives.** – The State shall promote the welfare of all animals by establishing rules, regulations, guidelines, and standards and endeavor to achieve the following objectives:

- a. To protect and promote animal welfare by providing rules, regulations, guidelines, and standards in the establishment and operation of animal facilities, transportation, and the like;
- b. To establish welfare guidelines and standards in the use, treating, breeding, maintaining, keeping, and training of all animals;
- c. To protect and promote animal health through the maintenance of adequate, clean, and sanitary facilities used in the keeping, breeding, treating, and training of animals;
- d. To promote responsible pet ownership through education and information dissemination;
- e. To regulate the operation and maintenance of animal facilities or any establishment where animals are kept for whatever reason or purpose;
- f. To formulate rules and regulations that will ensure the promotion of animal welfare in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of any pet shop, kennel, pound, shelter, slaughterhouse, veterinary clinic, veterinary hospital, stockyard, corral, stud farm, or stock farm or zoo for the breeding, raising, treatment, sale or trading, or training of animals;
- g. To establish inter-agency, multi-sectoral, and local government cooperation for the promotion and protection of animal welfare;

- 1 h. To create an agency and establish an organizational structure that will  
2 effectively implement the provisions of this Act and all laws relevant to it;  
3 i. To promote public awareness and concern for caring for animals and their  
4 welfare.

5  
6 **Sec. 5. Animal Welfare Principles.** – Animal welfare standards, practices,  
7 policies, and regulations must be based on the following principles:

- 8 a. Decisions regarding animal care, use, and welfare shall be made by balancing  
9 scientific knowledge and professional judgment with consideration of ethical  
10 and societal values;  
11 b. Animals must be provided water, food, proper handling, health care, and an  
12 environment appropriate to their care and use, with thoughtful consideration  
13 for their species-typical biology and behavior;  
14 c. Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize fear, pain, stress, and  
15 suffering; Conservation and management of animal populations should  
16 be humane, socially responsible, and scientifically prudent;  
17 d. Protection of animal habitat is an animal welfare consideration;  
18 e. Consider the five basic freedom of animals:  
19 (1) Freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition;  
20 (2) Freedom from physical discomfort and pain;  
21 (3) Freedom from injury and disease;  
22 (4) Freedom to conform to essential behavioral patterns; and  
23 (5) Freedom from fear and distress.  
24 f. Animals shall be treated with respect and dignity throughout their lives and,  
25 when necessary, provided with a humane death.

26  
27 **Sec. 6. Definitions.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- 28 (1) **Animals** refer to domesticated vertebrate and invertebrate species  
29 under the control of man, which may be food-producing, companion,  
30 laborers, aquatic, or laboratory including birds. The term excludes  
31 human and non-mammalian species;



- 1 (2) **Animal welfare** pertains to the physical and psychological well-being  
2 of animals. It includes, but is not limited to, the avoidance of abuse,  
3 maltreatment, cruelty, and exploitation of animals by humans by  
4 maintaining appropriate standards of accommodation, feeding, and  
5 general care, the prevention and treatment of disease, and the  
6 assurance of freedom from fear, distress, harassment and unnecessary  
7 discomfort and pain and allowing animals to express normal behavior;
- 8 (3) **Animal Facility** refers to any facility, structure, or premises used for  
9 the purpose of keeping, caring, breeding, rearing, holding, gaming,  
10 training, trading, treating, or exhibiting animals, including but not limited  
11 to farms, zoos, aviaries, apiaries, kennels, race tracks, cockpits, pet  
12 shops, shelters, pounds, animal rescue centers, airport, and seaport  
13 quarantine stations, animal holding facilities, stables, livestock markets,  
14 stockyards, corrals, stud farms, stock farms, slaughterhouses, aquaria,  
15 laboratories, veterinary clinics, and veterinary hospitals;
- 16 (4) **Animal fighting venture** refers to any event, show, exhibition,  
17 program, or other activity that involves a fight conducted or to be  
18 conducted between two or more animals for purposes of sport,  
19 wagering, amusement, or entertainment;
- 20 (5) **Animal welfare enforcement officer** refers to the Philippine National  
21 Police, National Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement  
22 agencies, citizens' groups, community organizations, and other  
23 volunteers members of NGOs, and Peoples organizations designated as  
24 such enforcement officers by the Bureau;
- 25 (6) **Board** refers to the Animal Welfare Board;
- 26 (7) **Bureau** refers to the Animal Welfare Bureau;
- 27 (8) **Captive Animals** refers to animals that are confined for educational or  
28 recreational purposes in places such as but not limited to zoos,  
29 sanctuaries, rescue centers, sea or ocean facility, and the like;
- 30 (9) **Director** refers to the individual in charge of the Animal Welfare  
31 Bureau;

- 1 (10) **Euthanasia** refers to the Bureau approved process or method  
2 of painless death of animals;
- 3 (11) **Keeper** refers to any person who owns, possesses, or has control  
4 or custody over an animal;
- 5 (12) **Local Government Unit (LGU)** refers to the Province, City, or  
6 Municipalities;
- 7 (13) **Pets** refers to documented or otherwise, or domestic animals  
8 intended for companionship, therapy, seeing and hearing guides,  
9 recreation and value formation, and breeding such as but not limited to  
10 dogs, cats, fishes, rabbits, rodents, reptiles, and birds that are either  
11 acquired locally or through importation under government rules and  
12 regulations;
- 13 (14) **Person** refers to any individual, corporation, company, business,  
14 enterprise, association, partnership, syndicate, trust, or other entity;
- 15 (15) **Reporter** refers to any person who reports a suspected violation  
16 of any provision of this Act to the proper authorities;
- 17 (16) **Secretary** refers to the Secretary of the Department of  
18 Agriculture;
- 19 (17) **Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP)**  
20 refers to a legal action filed to harass, vex, exert undue pressure, or  
21 stifle any legal recourse that any person, institution, or the government  
22 has taken or may take in the enforcement of this Act;
- 23 (18) **Transport Facility** refers to any transportation public or private,  
24 whether air, water, or land including tricycles and the like used to  
25 transport animals to a particular destination;
- 26 (19) **Wild animal** refers to any individual of a species that is not  
27 normally domesticated in the Philippines, including those in captivity  
28 under the control of a person.

29  
30 Furthermore, the Bureau may define such other terms as may be used in the  
31 implementation of this Act;





- 1           2. Policy and Planning;
- 2           3. Advocacy, Training, and Communication;
- 3           4. Inspection;
- 4           5. Legal and Enforcement;
- 5           6. Adjudication; and
- 6           7. Finance and Accounting.

7  
8           The Bureau may re-organize and expand its divisions in the future to effectively  
9 and fully implement the provisions of this Act.

10  
11           **Sec. 9. Personnel and Staffing Pattern.** – Notwithstanding the provisions  
12 of existing laws, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall require the  
13 Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), as an interim Director of the Bureau  
14 to submit within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act their recommendation  
15 on the personnel and staffing pattern of the Bureau and to submit the same to the  
16 Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission which shall  
17 include the functions of each of the named divisions. The BAI shall recommend the  
18 duties and responsibilities of the Divisions.

19  
20           **Sec. 10. Powers and Duties of the Animal Welfare Bureau.** – The  
21 Animal Welfare Bureau shall have the following powers and duties:

- 22           (1) To establish a system for the effective implementation of this Act;
- 23           (2) To formulate, adopt, and issue policies, guidelines, standards, rules, and  
24           regulations as part of a system for the effective implementation of this  
25           Act;
- 26           (3) To provide detailed regulations and standards on the appropriate food,  
27           water, and shelter for each species of pet and animals depending on the  
28           age, breed, size, and special needs thereof;
- 29           (4) To create, in consultation with the Land Transportation Office (LTO),  
30           Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Civil  
31           Aeronautics Board (CAB), the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA),  
32           other transport regulating bodies or agencies, experts, and animal

1 welfare groups, species-specific standards for the transportation of  
2 animals, including definitions for cruel confinement and restraint during  
3 transport, appropriate designs for transport cages and facilities, restraint  
4 types, provision of food and water, ventilation, and protection from  
5 extreme weather conditions, taking into consideration the species of the  
6 animal being transported, as well as its specific needs, size, behavior,  
7 and nature;

8 (5) To establish an emergency animal response and rescue system and  
9 mechanism to appropriately respond in cases of calamities such as but  
10 not limited to floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters;

11 (6) To promulgate standards and guidelines for the humane slaughter of  
12 farm animals in coordination and consultation with the National Meat  
13 Inspection Service, the LGUs, and other relevant government agencies;

14 (7) To stop, and inspect vehicles or any transport system used to  
15 transport animals and to order the closure, or stoppage of operation  
16 of any transport facility violating the provisions of this Act, its  
17 implementing rules and regulations, and other regulations and  
18 standards issued for the strict implementation of this Act;

19 (8) To establish a system and regulations for the inspection of animal  
20 facilities, and to inspect such animal facilities to ensure compliance  
21 with animal welfare standards and regulations;

22 (9) To delegate certain powers and functions to the LGUs, to the  
23 Regional, Provincial, and City Animal Welfare Officers relevant and  
24 necessary for purposes of effectively implementing animal welfare  
25 policies, guidelines, programs, and standards;

26 (10) To monitor compliance by the LGUs with the animal welfare  
27 programs, standards, rules, and regulations;

28 (11) To ensure proper coordination and tie-ups with non-  
29 government organizations, people's organizations, and the academe  
30 for the strict implementation of the rules and regulations issued;

- 1 (12) To formulate guidelines and qualifications related to research  
2 and testing on animals, ensuring that the use of animals in research  
3 and testing is only undertaken as a last resort;
- 4 (13) To supervise and monitor the implementation of this Act and  
5 to ensure strict compliance;
- 6 (14) To deputize personnel from regional field units, local  
7 government units, non-government organizations, people's  
8 organizations, community organizations, and certain veterinary  
9 professionals to assist in the implementation of this Act;
- 10 (15) To exercise administrative adjudication, confiscation, and  
11 forfeiture powers, including the power to cite in contempt, in all  
12 cases of violations of this Act;
- 13 (16) To impose, collect, and enforce administrative sanctions such  
14 as:
- 15 (a) Payment of fines;
  - 16 (b) The suspension or cancellation of existing permits or  
17 certifications;
  - 18 (c) Disqualification for Future permits;
  - 19 (d) The closure of animal facilities; and/or
  - 20 (e) The confiscation and forfeiture of all animals, including  
21 products, and all paraphernalia, tools, implements, and  
22 conveyances used in connection with the commission of the  
23 violation, and to dispose of the same in accordance with  
24 pertinent laws, regulations, or policies on the matter.
- 25 (17) To issue appropriate adjudication procedures, rules, and  
26 regulations;
- 27 (18) To establish and maintain a database surveillance and  
28 management information system on animal welfare in the  
29 Philippines;
- 30 (19) To operate the Animal Welfare Fund, including collecting  
31 monies paid into it and utilizing monies in the account for animal  
32 welfare programs;

- 1 (20) To levy and collect fees for registration, certification,  
2 inspection, and monitoring system, and other fees as the Bureau may  
3 deem necessary for the effective implementation of this Act;
- 4 (21) To keep records and documents pertaining to animal welfare  
5 in the country as well as the maintenance of surveillance and  
6 management information systems on animal welfare;
- 7 (22) To create and maintain a web-based registry accessible to the  
8 public of all the animal facilities in the country, whether public or  
9 private, which registry includes all collected information on each  
10 animal facility, including sanctions;
- 11 (23) To create a system and guidelines for the determination of  
12 approval of applications of certifications, authorizations, and permits  
13 necessary for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of  
14 animal facilities, as well as to issue said certifications, authorizations,  
15 and permits and to collect associated fees;
- 16 (24) To call upon any government agencies for assistance  
17 consistent with its powers, duties, and responsibilities for the  
18 purpose of ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of this  
19 Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, and it  
20 shall be the duty of such government agency to assist the Bureau  
21 when called upon for assistance using any available fund in its  
22 budget for the purpose;
- 23 (25) To conduct regular as well as random inspections to ensure  
24 that the continuing qualifications for the release and renewal of the  
25 issued certifications, authorizations, and permits are duly complied  
26 with and to impose necessary sanctions in case of non-compliance;
- 27 (26) To perform adjudicatory functions relating to animal welfare  
28 issues, cases, and violations;
- 29 (27) To create, establish and implement a national program on  
30 rewards and incentives for the Most Animal Welfare Friendly Region,  
31 Province, City, and Municipality;

1 (28) To issue other permits or certificates that it may deem  
2 necessary from time to time; and

3 (29) To utilize such other powers and perform such other duties  
4 and responsibilities which are necessary to achieve the purposes of  
5 this Act.

### 6 CHAPTER III.

### 7 THE ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD

8  
9 ***Sec. 11. The Animal Welfare Board.*** – There is hereby created an Animal  
10 Welfare Board under the Animal Welfare Bureau which shall perform as the  
11 consultative committee to assist in the formulation of various animal welfare policies  
12 and guidelines, rules, and regulations, standards as well as the development of welfare  
13 programs, standards, and practices.

14  
15 ***Sec. 12. Composition of the Board.*** – The Animal Welfare Board shall be  
16 composed as follows:

17 (1) Ex Officio Members - One representative from each of the following:

18 (a) Department of Agriculture;

19 (b) Animal Welfare Bureau;

20 (c) Bureau of Animal Industry;

21 (d) Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of  
22 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

23 (e) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);

24 (f) Bureau of Fisheries

25 (g) National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) of the DA;

26 (h) Provincial, City, Municipal Veterinary League Association; and

27 (i) Department of Education.

28  
29 (2) Appointive Members –



- 1 (a) Four (4) representatives from different nationally-recognized  
2 animal welfare organizations with proven track records on animal  
3 welfare and with established programs;
- 4 (b) One (1) representative from a nationally-recognized Veterinary  
5 Professional Association;
- 6 (c) One (1) representative each from the Poultry, Livestock, Fisheries  
7 Association; and
- 8 (d) The Secretary may appoint additional members as it may deem  
9 necessary to ensure adequate representation of various  
10 stakeholders upon recommendation of the Board and the Bureau.  
11

12 **Sec. 13. Chairman of the Board.** – The Animal Welfare Board shall be  
13 chaired by the Director of the Bureau or his/her duly designated representative. The  
14 Bureau shall also act as the Secretariat and shall be responsible for calling the  
15 meetings and sending notices for such meetings. The Secretariat shall also be  
16 responsible for records keeping and ensuring correct transcription of minutes of  
17 meetings.  
18

19 **Sec. 14. Meetings, Quorum, Per Diems.** – The Board shall meet at least  
20 quarterly, or more often should the need arise. Members of the Board shall constitute  
21 a quorum, which shall be necessary for voting on any matters before the Board. The  
22 Board members shall not receive any compensation but may receive honoraria from  
23 time to time the amount of which shall be decided by the Board.  
24

25 **Sec. 15. Appointment by the Secretary.** – Except for the identified  
26 government agencies, the other institutional members of the Committee shall be  
27 appointed by the Secretary upon the endorsement of the Director of the Bureau  
28 pursuant to the application or as nominated by their respective agencies/sectors. Each  
29 appointive member shall have a term of service of two (2) years subject to renewal  
30 or unless earlier removed for just cause pursuant to the rules on the matter subject  
31 to the assessment of the Animal Welfare Board.  
32

1 The procedure for removal and replacement, as well as enforceable disciplinary  
2 actions of members of the Board, shall be established in the internal rules and  
3 regulations of the Board. All policies and guidelines shall be approved by the Board  
4 including its internal rules and regulations.

#### 6 CHAPTER IV.

#### 7 ANIMAL WELFARE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND UNITS

8  
9 **Sec. 16. Regional, Provincial, City, and Municipal Animal Welfare**  
10 **Officers.** – A Regional Animal Welfare Officer shall be appointed by the Secretary for  
11 each Region upon the recommendation of the Director from the associated regional  
12 offices of the Department of Agriculture. This Regional Animal Welfare Officer shall  
13 be responsible for implementing animal welfare programs in the region and shall  
14 report any issues and concerns directly to the Bureau. Each Regional Animal Welfare  
15 Officer must possess the following minimum qualifications:

- 16  
17 1. A veterinarian with a minimum of two (2) years of experience in  
18 veterinary practice or an animal husbandry graduate; and
- 19 2. Has undergone relevant training on animal welfare and related training.

20  
21 Provinces and cities shall also assign their respective Animal Welfare Officers  
22 and necessary technical support staff from the Provincial/City Veterinary Offices to  
23 effectively implement the provisions of this Act. Municipalities shall likewise appoint  
24 an Animal Welfare Officer within its Municipal Agriculture office;

25  
26 The Board may add other qualifications as it may deem appropriate to best  
27 serve the purposes of this Act.

28  
29 **Sec. 17. Barangay Animal Welfare Unit.** – Each Barangay shall hereby be  
30 mandated to establish a Barangay Animal Welfare Unit (BAWU) similar to the Barangay  
31 Animal Health Worker. The BAWU shall be responsible for the local implementation of  
32 animal health, vaccination programs, animal welfare education, spaying, and

1 neutering as well as stray population control, in partnership with the Provincial, or City  
2 Veterinary Office or in the case of Municipalities, the Municipal Agrarian Officer or  
3 Veterinary Officer when present.  
4

5 **Sec. 18. *Deputization of Animal Welfare Enforcement Officers.*** – The  
6 Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall deputize animal welfare enforcement  
7 officers from non-government organizations, citizens’ groups, community  
8 organizations, and other volunteers who have undergone the necessary training for  
9 this purpose. The Philippine National Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines  
10 (AFP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and other law enforcement  
11 agencies shall designate animal welfare enforcement officers who shall assist in the  
12 implementation of this Act. In the absence of such enforcement officers, the said law  
13 enforcement officers shall continue to implement the law under their general  
14 mandate. The animal welfare enforcement officers shall have the full authority to seize  
15 and rescue illegally traded and maltreated animals and to arrest violators of this Act  
16 subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations on arrest and detention. Regardless of  
17 the absence of designated animal welfare enforcement officers in law enforcement,  
18 the same shall not preclude them from the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.  
19

20 The Bureau shall set guidelines in the training, qualification, reporting, and  
21 coordination of deputized animal welfare enforcement officers to cover the following:

- 22 1. Guidelines on the criteria and training requirements for the deputization of  
23 animal welfare enforcement officers; and
- 24 2. The mechanism for the supervision, monitoring, and reporting of these  
25 enforcement officers.  
26

## 27 **CHAPTER V.**

### 28 **BASIC ANIMAL CARE AND HANDLING GUIDELINES**

29  
30 **Sec. 19. *Provision of Food and Water.*** – Any keeper of an animal must  
31 provide the animal with, or arrange to have the animal provided with, access to

1 appropriate nutritious food at least once a day, or at a frequency that is typical for the  
2 species, sufficient to maintain good health; and, if appropriate for the species,  
3 continuous access to potable water that is not frozen, and is free of debris, feces,  
4 algae, and other contaminants.

5  
6 The Bureau shall provide guidelines on the appropriate food, water, and shelter  
7 for the animals depending on the kind, nature, and special needs thereof.

8  
9 ***Sec. 20. Provision of Appropriate Shelter and Facilities.*** – Any keeper  
10 of an animal must provide such animal with regular access to a shelter that has a solid  
11 floor; provides protection from the sun, rain, and wind sufficient to maintain good  
12 health; is regularly cleaned and sanitized; and is large enough for the animal to lie  
13 down, fully stretch its limbs, turn around freely without any impediment, and stand  
14 up, including on its hind legs if applicable, allowing the animal to express natural  
15 behavior and locomotion.

16  
17 ***Sec. 21. Provision of Veterinary Medical Care for Sick, Compromised,***  
18 ***or Injured Animals.*** – Any keeper of an animal must take all reasonable steps to  
19 ensure that the physical, health, and behavioral needs of the animals are met in  
20 accordance with good practice and scientific knowledge. This shall include, at  
21 minimum, a hands-on examination at least once yearly by a licensed veterinarian;  
22 prompt treatment of any illness or injury by a licensed veterinarian; and, where  
23 needed, humane euthanasia by a licensed veterinarian.

24  
25 ***Sec. 22. Provision of Appropriate Transport Facility.*** – Transport  
26 facilities for animals must be constructed, provisioned, and utilized in such a way as  
27 to avoid causing injury or undue suffering to the animals. Transport facilities shall  
28 include secure cages or restraint systems appropriate for the species being  
29 transported, as well as adequate ventilation to ensure the comfort and safety of the  
30 animal appropriate to its nature and size.

31



1           **Sec. 23. Provision of Opportunity for Animals to Express Natural**  
2 **Behaviors Including Play, Provision of Enrichment Activities, and Exercise.**

3 – Any keeper of an animal must provide such animal regular opportunities to express  
4 species-specific natural behaviors, for play and exercise in an area of sufficient space,  
5 and for stimulation through environmental enrichment activities to promote their  
6 health and welfare. The Bureau in consultation with stakeholders shall implement a  
7 timeline in improving farm facilities to comply with the provisions hereof.

8  
9  
10                           **CHAPTER VI.**  
11                           **PROHIBITED ACTS**

12  
13           **Sec. 24. Prohibition on Cruelty, Maltreatment, Abuse, and**  
14 **Exploitation.** – It shall be unlawful for any person to torture, abuse, exploit any  
15 animal, to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance, or shelter, or maltreat any  
16 animals, cause or procure to be tortured, or deprive such animals of adequate care  
17 sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or experiments not  
18 expressly authorized by the Bureau.

19  
20           An act of cruelty includes but is not limited to the following:

- 21           (a) Beating, harming, injuring, crushing, mutilating, maiming, disfiguring,  
22           stabbing, cutting, poisoning, drowning, torturing, tormenting, starving,  
23           overworking, or abusing an animal, or any other act or omission toward  
24           an animal, including any act of neglect, causing the animal pain,  
25           suffering, or distress, whether physical or psychological;
- 26           (b) Exposing an animal to inhumane and unsafe conditions and situations  
27           including overcrowded, inappropriate, unclean, or unsanitary animal  
28           facilities, shelters, or transport facilities;
- 29           (c) Killing an animal by way of electrocution or gas chamber or using any  
30           petrol or diesel exhaust;
- 31           (d) Using an animal in research or experiments not expressly authorized by  
32           the Bureau; and



1 (e) Overworking an animal.  
2

3 **Sec. 25. Prohibition on Neglect.** – It shall be unlawful for any keeper of  
4 an animal to fail to provide such animal with basic care in accordance with Chapter V  
5 of this Act. It shall also be unlawful for any keeper of an animal to allow such animal  
6 to roam the streets resulting in its impoundment by the local impounding authority.  
7

8 **Sec. 26. Prohibition on Killing of Animals.** – It shall be unlawful for any  
9 person to kill any animals other than cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits,  
10 carabao, horse, or other food animals for human consumption. The killing of pets and  
11 animals not declared as food animals for human consumption, or cause or procuring  
12 the same to be killed is prohibited except in the following instances:  
13

- 14 1. When it is done as part of the religious rituals of an established religion  
15 or sect or a ritual required by a tribal or ethnic custom of indigenous  
16 cultural communities; however, religious or tribal leaders shall keep  
17 records in accordance with relevant guidelines issued on the matter;
- 18 2. Euthanasia of a pet animal is afflicted with an incurable communicable  
19 disease as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;
- 20 3. When euthanasia of an animal is deemed necessary to put an end to the  
21 misery suffered by the animal as determined and certified by a duly  
22 licensed veterinarian;
- 23 4. When it is done to prevent imminent danger to the life or limb of a  
24 human being;
- 25 5. When done for the purpose of animal population control as a last resort  
26 duly certified by the Provincial/City Veterinary Officer;
- 27 6. Euthanasia of an animal by a duly licensed veterinarian after the animal  
28 has been used in an authorized research or experiment in accordance  
29 with Section 46;
- 30 7. Humane slaughter of a farm animal, in accordance with Section 33(d);  
31 and

1           8. Any other ground analogous to the foregoing as determined and  
2           certified by a duly licensed veterinarian.

3  
4           In all of the above-mentioned cases, the killing shall at all times be done only  
5 through euthanasia or other humane procedures approved by the Animal Welfare  
6 Bureau. For this purpose, humane procedures shall mean the use of the most scientific  
7 methods available as may be determined by the Bureau.

8  
9           ***Sec. 27. Prohibition on Animal Fights.*** – It is prohibited to subject animals  
10 to fights such as but not limited to dog fighting, carabao or bullfighting or horse  
11 fighting, and the like, not authorized or regulated by law. Any person who participates  
12 under the circumstances as described herein shall be considered as an accessory in  
13 the commission of animal fighting and/or abetting in the commission of animal cruelty.  
14 It shall include but not be limited to pitting one animal with another for the purpose  
15 of human entertainment, wagering, or sport. In certain instances, one of the animals  
16 involved may be a “bait animal” used for the ostensible purpose of sport or training.

17  
18           The prohibition on animal fights shall include but not be limited to the following:

- 19           (a) Cause, procure, permit, encourage, promote, organize, sponsor, or  
20           incite a fight in which an animal is pitted against another animal for any  
21           purposes such as dog fighting and horse fighting and the like;  
22           (b) Advertise, promote, sell tickets, or otherwise assist in an animal fighting  
23           venture;  
24           (c) Attend such a fight;  
25           (d) Breed or train any animal for the purpose of having it fight, engage, or  
26           otherwise participate in an animal fighting venture;  
27           (e) Permit an animal fighting venture to take place on any site, structure,  
28           facility, or other premises under the person’s ownership or control;  
29           (f) Attend, wager on, or otherwise patronize an animal fighting venture;  
30           and  
31           (g) Cause or allow a person who has not yet reached the age of 16 to attend  
32           an animal fighting venture.

1  
2 Animal fighting ventures held during festivities, festivals, fiestas, and the like  
3 are not exempt from this Section and are strictly prohibited.  
4

5 ***Sec. 28. Prohibition on Dog Meat Trading.*** – It shall be unlawful for any  
6 person to engage in the trade of dogs for their meat which includes the farming or  
7 capture, transport, sale, or slaughter of dogs and their meat for commercial human  
8 consumption.

9 The trade of dogs shall include but shall not be limited to buying and/or selling  
10 of dogs, dog meats and carcasses, dog farming, collecting, and/or slaughtering of  
11 dogs for commercial consumption.  
12

13 ***Sec. 29. Prohibition on Abandonment.*** – It shall be unlawful for any  
14 keeper of an animal, whether temporary or permanent, to abandon such animal.

15 Animal abandonment refers to leaving behind an animal alone or permitting  
16 the animal to be abandoned in circumstances which might cause them harm.  
17

18 ***Sec. 30. Prohibition on Ear Cropping, Tail docking, De-vocalization,***  
19 ***and Declawing.*** – The conduct of ear cropping, tail docking, devocalization, de-  
20 clawing, or any other similar mutilation is prohibited as constituting animal cruelty  
21 except in cases as may be required for the well-being of the animal as determined by  
22 a duly licensed veterinarian and not for aesthetic purposes. When allowed, the same  
23 may only be performed by a duly licensed veterinarian.  
24

25 ***Sec. 31. Operating an Animal Facility without a Permit or Certificate.***  
26 – Operating any facility without a necessary permit or certification from the Bureau is  
27 hereby prohibited.  
28

29 **CHAPTER VII.**  
30 **ENFORCEMENT**  
31

1           **Sec. 32. In General.** – The Bureau, either independently, or in cooperation  
2 with LGUs, the registered NGOs, Animal Welfare Enforcement Officers and the  
3 Philippine National Police, and other concerned parties, is authorized to carry out  
4 enforcement operations and measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of  
5 this Act and to eradicate, stop and prevent activities prohibited under this Act.  
6

7           **Sec. 33. Visitorial/Inspection Power.** – Owners and/or operators of  
8 animal facilities shall be subjected to regular, as well as random inspections by the  
9 Bureau on its own or through its deputized agencies and Enforcement Officers to  
10 ensure compliance with the standards set forth by this Act and subsequent rules and  
11 regulations. Fines and suspension or revocation of certificates as provided in the  
12 implementing rules and regulations of this Act shall be imposed in case of non-  
13 compliance.  
14

15           **Sec. 34. Apprehension of Offending Person/s.** – Any person who has  
16 knowledge or information about the commission of any of the prohibited acts  
17 heretofore cited may refer the same to the law enforcement authority or to the Animal  
18 Welfare Bureau and/or its deputized animal welfare enforcement officers, and other  
19 law enforcement agencies for appropriate action. The procedure in the filing of  
20 criminal charges shall be as prescribed by the rules of criminal procedure contained in  
21 the Rules of Court.  
22

23           **Sec. 35. Seizure of Effects.** – Any items seized including animals, pursuant  
24 to arrests made for violation of any provision of this Act shall be held by any person,  
25 facility, or organization, authorized by the Bureau, including the LGUs, the law  
26 enforcement agencies or any Bureau accredited NGO pending disposition of  
27 administrative, civil and criminal proceedings. Animals seized shall be referred to  
28 Bureau-accredited animal facilities. For wildlife, the same shall be referred to the  
29 DENR - BMB, without prejudice to the latter's referral or transfer of the animals to  
30 other animal facilities provided it has better and more suited facilities.  
31



1 Any animals seized and/or rescued from any inhumane condition or facility shall  
2 be immediately relieved from such condition or situation without prejudice to the  
3 immediate conduct of proper documentation such as photographing for purposes of  
4 preserving evidence.

5 ***Sec. 36. Rescue of Animals in an Enclosed Facility.*** – Any animals found  
6 to have been kept, abandoned, deprived of basic care, protection, and food, or  
7 subjected to inhumane or cruel situations in an enclosed, locked, secured, or sealed  
8 facility, whether public or private, may be rescued, or relieved from the cruel situation  
9 or condition in coordination with the Barangay or the Law enforcement agencies or  
10 Animal Welfare Enforcement Officers/NGOs. The said enclosed facility may be broken  
11 open subject to diligent efforts shown to contact the owner of the facility. Except in  
12 case where there is an imminent danger to the life of the animal, diligent effort to  
13 contact the owner of the facility may be dispensed with provided the Barangay or the  
14 Police or any licensed veterinarian has certified on the occurrence of such danger.

15  
16 ***Sec. 37. Protection Orders.*** – A protection order is a relief granted under  
17 this Act for the purpose of preventing further violations of the provisions herein as  
18 well as to protect an animal from further distress, fear, cruelty, or discomfort by  
19 relieving them or removing them from such inhumane condition and granting other  
20 necessary reliefs. The protection order shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies,  
21 deputized animal welfare enforcement officers, or the Bureau.

22  
23 The protection orders that may be issued under this Act are the Barangay  
24 Protection Order (BPO), temporary protection order (TPO), and permanent protection  
25 order (PPO).

26 A Barangay Protection Order is issued by the barangay office where the  
27 perpetrator of the prohibited act or the complaining individual or entity lives or holds  
28 office. This BPO shall be effective for fifteen (15) days. A Temporary Protection Order  
29 shall be issued by the court having jurisdiction over the case filed against the  
30 respondent which shall last for a period of thirty (30) days. A Permanent Protection  
31 Order shall be issued by the appropriate court having jurisdiction over the case filed



1 against the respondent which shall remain in effect unless revoked by the court after  
2 the dismissal of the case against the respondent.

3

4 A protection order may be sought by any concerned citizen, deputized animal  
5 welfare officer, law enforcement officer, the Board, or the LGU through the City or  
6 Provincial Veterinary Officers.

7 The protection under this Act may include any of the following reliefs:

8 (a) Prohibition of respondent from taking possession of the animal(s) that  
9 are or were in the respondent's possession;

10 (b) Prohibition of respondent from taking possession of any animal for the  
11 duration of the protection order;

12 (c) Prohibition of respondent from purchasing any live animal for any  
13 purpose for the duration of the protection order;

14 (d) Directing the respondent to stay away from the person who has caused  
15 the apprehension of the respondent and his or her family or  
16 household member at a distance specified in the protection order or a  
17 minimum of 50 meters;

18 (e) Directing the respondent to stay away from the residence, school, place  
19 of employment, or any specified place frequented by a particular  
20 reporter, as well as such reporter's designated family or household  
21 member/s;

22 (f) Granting temporary or permanent custody of the animal to any animal  
23 welfare enforcement officer or any interested animal welfare group who  
24 shall apply for the custody of said animal/s;

25 (g) Restitution for actual costs for the rescue, care, and rehabilitation of  
26 animal/s subject matter of the protection order; and

27 (h) Such other forms of relief as the court deems necessary to protect any  
28 animals as well as any Reporter and the Reporter's designated  
29 family or household member/s.

30 The issuance of the BPO or the pendency of an application for BPO shall not  
31 preclude the application for or the granting of TPO or PPO. Any violation of the

1 protection order shall be deemed as multiple violations under this Act and shall be  
2 penalized accordingly.

3

4 ***Sec. 38. Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) in the***

5 ***Enforcement of this Act.*** – If a person believes that a legal action filed against the  
6 person constitutes a SLAPP, such person may make such assertion as an affirmative  
7 defense in the action. A special hearing on the SLAPP affirmative defense shall be  
8 held by the court at the earliest possible juncture in the action. The hearing on the  
9 SLAPP affirmative defense shall be summary in nature, and the SLAPP affirmative  
10 defense shall be resolved within thirty (30) days after the summary hearing. If the  
11 court dismisses the action pursuant to the SLAPP affirmative defense, the court may  
12 award attorney’s fees and costs of suit, as well as damages under a counterclaim if  
13 such has been filed. The dismissal shall be with prejudice.

14

15 If the court rejects the SLAPP affirmative defense, the evidence adduced during  
16 the summary hearing shall be treated as evidence of the parties on the merits of the  
17 case. The action shall proceed in accordance with the Rules of the Court.

18

19 ***Sec. 39. Disputable Presumption.*** – If, at the time of apprehension, a  
20 person lacks the appropriate permit, certification or clearance, or authority, issued by  
21 the Bureau or other pertinent government agencies including duly licensed Local  
22 Government Veterinarian, the following shall constitute prima facie evidence of the  
23 corresponding illegal acts punishable under this Act:

- 24 a. The possession of a body, carcasses or any parts thereof, meats of any  
25 animals prohibited to be killed, whether raw, cooked or processed, other  
26 than those allowed under existing laws on food animals, without  
27 justification or necessary permit or veterinary certificate from the  
28 Bureau, LGU Veterinarian, or the National Meat Inspection Service or  
29 local slaughterhouses showing the reasons for the killing and the method  
30 used for the killing as well as the purpose for which the carcasses are to  
31 be used is a presumption that the animals were killed under

1 circumstances prohibited under this Act thus, punishable, provided that  
2 such possession includes the possession of any paraphernalia used for  
3 killing, torture or maltreatment such as clubs, knife, cages, restraints  
4 along with live or dead animals including any of its products and  
5 derivatives shall be a disputable presumption that the possessor caused  
6 the killing and/or destruction, infliction of injury, maltreatment, as  
7 appropriate;

8  
9 b. The presence of fresh and/or dried blood, by-products, or derivatives of  
10 the animals, with or without the tools, equipment, and/or paraphernalia  
11 derivatives, shall be a disputable presumption of the killing and/or  
12 destruction of the habitat of the animal involved;

#### 13 14 **CHAPTER VIII.**

### 15 **ADJUDICATION AND AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE ADMINISTRATIVE FINES &** 16 **PENALTIES**

17  
18 ***Sec. 40. Authority to Adjudicate and Administer Administrative***  
19 ***Penalties.*** – The Bureau or their respective authorized representatives are  
20 authorized to exercise administrative adjudication, confiscation, and forfeiture powers,  
21 including the power to cite in contempt, in all cases of violations of this Act and may  
22 impose administrative sanctions such as payment of fines, and/or order the  
23 suspension or cancellation of existing permits, certifications and disqualification for  
24 future permits, the closure of facilities, and/or the confiscation and forfeiture of all  
25 animals including products, and all paraphernalia, tools, implements and conveyances  
26 used in connection with the commission of the violation, and to dispose of the same  
27 in accordance with pertinent laws, regulations or policies on the matter. The Bureau  
28 or their authorized representatives may, after due notice and hearing, cancel or  
29 suspend permits, clearances, agreements, and/or certificates due to violation of this  
30 Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and/or the terms of the permits,  
31 agreements, or certificates. The Bureau upon approval of the Secretary shall issue  
32 appropriate adjudication procedures, rules, and regulations.

1  
2 **CHAPTER IX.**  
3 **PERMITS, CERTIFICATES, AND AUTHORITY TO COLLECT FEES AND**  
4 **CHARGES**

5  
6 ***Sec. 41. Certificate of Registration and Permits.*** – No person,  
7 association, partnership, corporation, cooperative, or any government agency or  
8 instrumentality shall establish, maintain, or operate any animal facility including  
9 transport facility public or private, without first securing from the Bureau a certificate  
10 of registration thereof. Any facility, public or private, that has a minimum of ten (10)  
11 animals combined or otherwise shall be considered as operating an animal facility  
12 when the following circumstances are present:

- 13 a. When operating and representing itself publicly as such; and  
14 b. When it has been securing donations or effecting rescue under the  
15 definition of this code.

16  
17 As such, the said facility shall be covered by the guidelines and requirements  
18 of the Act.

19  
20 The Bureau may revoke or cancel the certificate of registration of an animal  
21 facility if such animal facility is found to be in violation of any provision of this Act or  
22 any associated guidelines, rules, regulations, standards or other just cause.

23  
24 ***Sec. 42. Mayor's Permit Requirement.*** – No LGU shall issue a Mayor's or  
25 business permit to any person, association, partnership, corporation, cooperative or  
26 government agency or instrumentality without the presentation of a certificate coming  
27 from the Bureau that it has complied with the animal welfare standards set forth  
28 herein or any rules and regulations as may hereafter be enforced.

29  
30 **CHAPTER X.**  
31 **OTHER ANIMAL WELFARE PROVISIONS**  
32



1           **Sec. 43. Use of Animals for Show, Media, TV, Movies, or**  
2 **Entertainment.** – Promoters/organizers of animal shows, media, or entertainment,  
3 shall obtain the necessary permit from the Bureau when using animals. The presence  
4 of a licensed veterinarian during the entire show, taping, shooting, or program shall  
5 be required. The Bureau shall lay down requirements for this purpose. All other  
6 provisions regarding proper care and treatment of animals, in general, shall be  
7 applicable to these animals used for show or entertainment especially with respect to  
8 transport, holding area, allowance for rest, and provision of food and water.

9  
10           It shall be unlawful for producers and promoters of shows where animals are  
11 used to import, procure or use animals from sources without animal welfare  
12 standards/laws and/or have been shown to have maltreated or exposed animals to  
13 inhumane conditions prior to their importation. The animal should be given sufficient  
14 food and accommodation as well as adequate rest for the entire duration of its stay  
15 in the Philippines.

16  
17           **Sec. 44. Use of Animals for Work.** – Animals used as working animals  
18 including but not limited to carriage horses, farm animals, and the like must comply  
19 with the health and welfare standards set forth herein and as may be issued by the  
20 Bureau taking into consideration their nature and behavior. Working animals should  
21 not be allowed to work under circumstances where their health and safety will be at  
22 risk. Overworking of animals is hereby prohibited. Water and appropriate shelter  
23 protecting the same from extreme weather conditions must be provided.

24  
25           **Sec. 45. Use of Animals as a Guide or Service Animal.** – Service animals,  
26 such as but not limited to guide/service dogs are hereby regulated by the Bureau and  
27 welfare guidelines established. Certification guidelines and standards for the  
28 accreditation of dogs shall be established by the Bureau in consultation with relevant  
29 agencies and concerned groups. Service dogs or Guide dogs shall be defined  
30 accordingly.



1           **Sec. 46. Use of Animals in Research and Scientific Study.** – Animals  
2 used in scientific procedures, research, and studies shall be regulated by the Bureau,  
3 ensuring that animal welfare regulations and guidelines in the use, experimentation,  
4 testing, and manipulations of animals for said purpose are complied with at all times.  
5 The academe and research institutions are encouraged to use non-animal research,  
6 testing, or educational model or strategy when reasonably and practicably available.  
7 Animal experimentation may be performed only as a last resort upon exhaustion of  
8 alternative approaches.

9  
10           No person, partnership, corporation, cooperative, government agency, or  
11 instrumentality undertaking or operating any research facility shall use any animal in  
12 research or experiments without first obtaining written authorization from the Bureau  
13 upon compliance with such guidelines and qualifications necessary to obtain such  
14 authority.

15  
16           **Sec. 47. Farm Animals.** – The Bureau shall set out standards and guidelines  
17 in consultation with the stakeholders in the establishment and gradual compliance  
18 with animal welfare standards to better the living and health condition of animals in  
19 the farm industry.

20  
21           **Sec. 48. Transportation of Animals.** – The following stipulations shall be  
22 followed when transporting animals:

- 23           a. No person shall transport an animal or cause an animal to be transported  
24 in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to an animal, including  
25 but not limited to overcrowding, lack of adequate ventilation and  
26 appropriate transport cages, unnecessary or painful restraint, improper  
27 and unsafe stowing, transport during extreme weather condition and the  
28 like, as well as failure to adequately provide food and water for the  
29 transported animals.
- 30           b. No person transporting an animal in connection with an economic  
31 activity shall fail to:

- 1 i. Ensure that such animal is fit to travel and checked regularly  
2 during the voyage, at least once every six hours;
- 3 ii. Protect such animals from extreme temperatures, with journeys  
4 limited to duration as prescribed by the Bureau depending on the  
5 specie, nature, and needs of the transported animal;
- 6 iii. Ensure that vehicle loading and unloading facilities are  
7 constructed and maintained to avoid injury and suffering;
- 8 iv. Provide sufficient floor space and height allowance so as to allow  
9 such animal to lie down, stand up, fully stretch its limbs, and turn  
10 around freely without any impediment; and
- 11 v. After each eight (8) hour travel period, rest such animal off the  
12 vehicle for at least 24 hours, providing such animal sufficient  
13 water and feed.

14  
15 For purposes of this Section, transport “in connection with an economic activity”  
16 includes but is not limited to journeys undertaken by commercial haulers, farmers,  
17 commercial animal breeders, and horse racers. Such transport is not limited to  
18 transport where an immediate exchange of money, goods, or services takes place and  
19 instead includes, in particular, transport that directly or indirectly involves or aims at  
20 a financial gain.

- 21
- 22 c. No person shall transport an animal fewer than eight (8) weeks old, a  
23 pregnant female who has passed through ninety percent (90%) of her  
24 expected gestational period, a female who has given birth in the past  
25 seven (7) days, or a sick or injured animal unless such transport is to or  
26 from a veterinary practice or clinic.
- 27 d. Any violation of this Section shall be penalized even if the transporter  
28 has a permit to transport from the Bureau.
- 29 e. Any violation of this Section shall be penalized even if the transporter  
30 has a permit to transport from the Bureau; and
- 31 f. Any vehicle used in the transportation or importation/exportation of  
32 animals in violation of the provisions of this Act shall be deemed an

1 instrument employed in the commission of the crime and shall be  
2 ordered confiscated and forfeited in favor of the government upon  
3 conviction of the accused.  
4

5 **Sec. 49. Importation and Export of Live Animals.** – For the import and/or  
6 export of live animals, compliance with the provisions of this Act must be ensured,  
7 including proper holding facilities. Import of animals from countries of extremely cold  
8 climates shall be prohibited unless specifically authorized on a case-by-case basis by  
9 the Bureau upon submission of approved care and sustainability program or plan.  
10

11 **Sec. 50. Spay and Neuter and Vaccination of Stray Cats and Dogs.** –  
12 The LGUs through the Office of the Provincial, City, and First-Class Municipalities shall  
13 implement a mandatory spay and neuter for stray dogs and cats to control animal  
14 strays and rabies. The Bureau may come up with other dog/cat population control  
15 programs in keeping with what is relevant and necessary. Pest control companies shall  
16 not be allowed to capture and dispose of cats and/or dogs.  
17

18 **Sec. 51. Communication, Education, and other Public Awareness**  
19 **Campaigns.** – The Bureau together with other agencies, NGOs, and stakeholders  
20 shall implement programs towards increasing awareness of animal welfare through  
21 education and various information awareness activities and programs.  
22

## 23 **CHAPTER XI.**

### 24 **APPROPRIATION**

25

26 **Sec. 52. Appropriation.** – The initial funding to establish the Bureau shall be  
27 taken from the General Appropriations of the Department of Agriculture to the extent  
28 of the amount of Fifty Million Pesos (50,000,000) for the first year.  
29

30 The subsequent funding shall be included in the General Appropriation Act  
31 which shall include all necessary amounts to achieve the purposes of this Act and to  
32 ensure the proper functioning of the Bureau, including the enforcement of this Act.

1  
2 **CHAPTER XII.**

3 **PENALTIES**

4  
5 **Sec. 52. Penalties.** – The following penalties shall be imposed for violation of any  
6 provision of this Act:

- 7
- 8 a. Any person who subjects any animal to cruelty, torture, maltreatment or  
9 any of the prohibited acts herein shall be punished with a penalty of  
10 imprisonment ranging from one (1) year and six (6) months to three (3)  
11 years or a fine not less than thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00) but not  
12 more than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or both.
- 13 b. Abandonment of animals shall be punished with a penalty of  
14 imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to one (1) year, or a fine not  
15 exceeding ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00), or both. If the animal is left  
16 in circumstances likely to cause the animal unnecessary suffering or if  
17 this abandonment results in the death or injury of the animal, the person  
18 liable shall suffer the maximum penalty of imprisonment of one (1) year  
19 and fine of ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00).
- 20 c. Operating an animal facility, including any animal transport facility,  
21 without the required permit shall be punished with a penalty of  
22 imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to one (1) year or a fine not  
23 exceeding ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00), or both. The penalties  
24 imposed herein are without prejudice to the administrative liability of the  
25 owner/operator.
- 26 d. Failure to obtain the required permits to use animals for show,  
27 entainment, or any form of media, or use animals for research and/or  
28 scientific education experiment shall be punished with a penalty of  
29 imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to one (1) year and six (6)  
30 months or a fine not exceeding thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00), or  
31 both.



- 1 e. If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the offender  
2 responsible thereof shall be punished with the corresponding penalty of  
3 imprisonment. If the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall  
4 be immediately deported after the service of sentence without any  
5 further proceedings;
- 6 f. The penalty of imprisonment ranging from two (2) years and one (1)  
7 day to three (3) years or a fine not exceeding two hundred fifty thousand  
8 pesos (P250,000.00), or both, shall be imposed if the offense involves  
9 any of the following circumstances:
- 10 i. Committed by a syndicate involving a group of three (3) or more  
11 individuals;
- 12 ii. Committed by an offender who makes a business out of cruelty  
13 to animals;
- 14 iii. Committed by a public officer or employee; or  
15 iv. Where at least three (3) animals are involved.
- 16 g. In any of the foregoing situations, the offender shall suffer subsidiary  
17 imprisonment in case of insolvency and the inability to pay fine.
- 18 h. The maximum applicable penalty shall be imposed upon a person who,  
19 at the time of his or her trial for a violation of this Act, shall have been  
20 previously convicted by final judgment of the same or another violation  
21 of this Act;
- 22 i. Any person found guilty of dog meat trading shall be punished with a  
23 penalty of fine not exceeding five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per dog  
24 and penalty of imprisonment ranging from one (1) year to four (4) years;
- 25 j. Any violation of any other provisions of this Act shall be punished with a  
26 penalty of imprisonment ranging from three (3) months to one (1) year,  
27 or a fine not exceeding five thousand pesos (P5,000.00), or both;
- 28 k. The liability of any person herein is without prejudice to his/her liability  
29 for any other offenses under another law including administrative  
30 liabilities;
- 31 l. Any person who has been habitually convicted of a violation of this Act  
32 shall be permanently and perpetually disqualified from being issued any



1 permits or certificates to operate any animal facility including owning or  
2 possessing an animal/pet;

3 m. The courts, in its discretion, in lieu of service in jail, may require that the  
4 imposed penalties of imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year be served  
5 by the defendant by rendering community service under such terms and  
6 conditions that the courts may determine depending on the gravity of  
7 the offense. Under this circumstance, the courts will prepare an order  
8 imposing the penalty of community service in lieu of the penalty,  
9 specifying the number of hours to be worked and the period for it to be  
10 completed. Community service to be rendered must be related to  
11 assistance to animals.

12  
13 **CHAPTER XIII.**  
14 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

15  
16 ***Sec. 54. Animal Welfare Fund.*** – There is hereby established an Animal  
17 Welfare Fund to be administered by the Bureau as a special account in the National  
18 Treasury. It shall finance the programs of the Bureau on animal welfare as well as the  
19 enforcement process.

20  
21 The Fund shall be derived from fines imposed and damages awarded pursuant  
22 to violations of this Act, fees charged for permits, registrations, authorizations,  
23 donations, endowments, administrative fees, or grants in the form of contributions.  
24 Contribution to the Fund shall be exempt from donor taxes and all other taxes,  
25 charges, or fees imposed by the government.

26  
27 ***Sec. 55. Mandatory Animal Welfare Education.*** – It shall be mandatory  
28 for all primary and secondary education schools, public and private to integrate in  
29 their curriculum and have activities on the following:

- 30 (1) The promotion and protection of the welfare of animals;  
31 (2) Responsible pet ownership; and  
32 (3) Concept of animal welfare.

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**Sec. 56. Emergency Response.** – The Bureau shall create and implement, in collaboration with the LGUs and animal welfare NGOs, an interagency emergency response program for rescuing and caring for animals in times of calamity including but not limited to floods, earthquakes, and the like. Such program shall include the establishment and placing of the animals in identified animal evacuation centers, temporary shelters, and/or recognized rescue centers, whether public or private until the same is claimed by their rightful owners or can be rehomed appropriately.

The Bureau, through the LGUs, shall likewise establish an emergency response system to rescue and/or refer animals' victim of abuse, cruelty, and maltreatment to recognized animal shelters or facilities whether public or private.

**Sec. 57. Custody of Rescued Animals.** – Any animal/s seized or rescued from violators of this Act made in response to a violation of any provision of this Act and subsequent guidelines, rules, and regulations may be held in custody pending disposition of administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings. Animals seized or rescued shall be referred to the Local Government Pound or Shelter, Bureau accredited animal facilities subject to rules and regulations as may be hereinafter issued. For wildlife, the same shall be referred to the DENR-BMB or their nearest regional offices.

**Sec. 58. Role of Local Government Units and other government agencies.** – LGUs shall support the Bureau in the implementation of this Act by issuing necessary animal welfare ordinances and implementing animal welfare programs in coordination with the Bureau, including the conduct of mandatory spay and neutering to control dog and cat population as well as veterinary access. Other government agencies handling animals within the definition of this Act are required to adopt and implement animal welfare standards, policies, rules, and regulations in their operation consistent with this Act.

Recognizing the important role of the Barangay, a Barangay Animal Welfare Task Force shall be created and shall adopt programs consistent with the provisions of this Act and rules and regulations issued to implement the purpose of this Act.

1           **Sec. 59. Construction of the Law.** – This Act shall be liberally construed in  
2 favor of the promotion and protection of the welfare of the animals.

3           **Sec. 60. Transition.** – During the transition within one (1) year from  
4 effectivity hereof, the existing Bureau of Animal Industry shall remain to be the  
5 supervisory and authority in the implementation of the provisions of this act and shall  
6 manage, supervise turn over and monitor the establishment of the Bureau until the  
7 same becomes operational including the assignment and appointment of personnel  
8 and staff during the transition.

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10           **Sec. 61. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is  
11 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are  
12 not affected, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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14           **Sec. 62. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, rules, and regulations  
15 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended  
16 accordingly.

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18           **Sec. 63. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
19 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*