

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. No. 1557



Introduced by Representative Estrellita "Ging" B. Suansing

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As people population increases, animal population follows suit. Not to mention the different kinds of beastly brutes, constituted by wild, domesticated and domestic animals. Since animals do not undergo formal education like humans, and considering that they can be easy carriers of diseases and infections that can be passed on to humans; the regulation of the animal industry is very necessary. Regulatory functions, such as but not limited to conducting scientific investigations in accord with implementation of statutes and regulations for the protection of the public from infections, diseases and contaminated meat products should be considered as utmost priorities.

In congruence thereto, this bill seeks to strengthen the animal industry and veterinary services in the Philippines by promoting and protecting animal health and welfare, recognizing the importance of sanitary measures therefor, establishing a modern and responsive national veterinary authority, encouraging the participation of various veterinary service providers, and securing the development of the animal industry in the attainment of greater safeguards and food security for the country's animal and human populations; improving public health, environment and enhanced global trade competitiveness to boot.

This Act shall apply to all programs, activities and undertakings of persons, corporations, associations, organizations, small-hold farmers, entities, or government agencies that directly or indirectly deals on animal health-related matters, animal welfare, related training and research, use of veterinary drugs and genetic improvement of livestock.

The objectives of this bill are to protect human and environmental health from animal diseases, improved veterinary services, formulation of policies for the promotion of animal health, institutionalizing inter-agency, multi-sectoral and local government cooperation; animal food production safety, global livestock trade competitiveness, dynamic livestock breeder and production farm, among others.

The National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA), which is the agency tasked to implement this bill up to the regional level would be placed under the Department of Agriculture (DA), which will be chiefly responsible for overseeing and promoting the health, welfare and productivity of the national animal population. The DA as an administrative agency of the government is comprised by experts in a specific field of specialization under its jurisdiction. Hence, the decision to place the aforesaid establishment under the supervision of the said agency certainly augurs well for the proposed bill.

The NLVSA shall have regulatory authority on all facets of the animal industry; providing technical assistance and supervision pursuant to the same. The agency shall have visitorial powers through its duly authorized veterinary officers and shall have the authority for "Declaration of Quarantine" and the power of "seizure and confiscation", to name a few.

Moreover the Committee on Animal Welfare (CAW), created under Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998" shall be renamed, henceforth known as the "National Advisory Committee for the Welfare of Animals", to be chaired by a representative from the private sector, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the DA. This new-named office shall be responsible for the formulation of rules and regulations for the strict implementation of the provisions of this Act and R.A. No. 8485.


Rep. ESTRELLITA "GING" B. SUANSING
1st District, Nueva Ecija

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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House Bill No. **1557**

Introduced by Honorable Estrellita "Ging" B. Suansing

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND
VETERINARY SERVICES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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

Chapter I

INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Animal Industry and Veterinary Services Act of 2011."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the policy of the State to promote and protect animal health and welfare, recognize the importance of efficient delivery of sanitary measures, establish a modern and responsive national veterinary authority, encourage the participation of various veterinary service providers, and secure the development of the animal industry in the attainment of greater safeguards and food security for the country's animal and human populations, improved public health and environment, and enhanced global trade competitiveness.

Section 3. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to all programs, activities and undertakings of persons, corporations, associations, organizations, small-hold farmers, entities, or government agencies that, directly or indirectly, deals on the following:

1. Animal health related matters such as but not limited to:
 - (a) Animal and zoonotic disease diagnosis, treatment, prevention, control and eradication;
 - (b) Early detection systems and compulsory reporting of important animal diseases and zoonoses;
 - (c) inspection and monitoring of (i) animals, animal products and by-products (ii) animal facilities, premises, equipment, means of

transportation and other inanimate things in contact with animals and/or animal products (iii) animal feeds, feed ingredients, supplements and additives, (iv) veterinary drugs, biologicals, immunological products, cosmetics and devices;

2. Animal welfare;

3. Training and research on animal health and welfare, marketing and extension services, and product development;

4. Rational and judicious use of veterinary drugs, biologicals and diagnostic reagents in animals;

5. Management, genetic improvement and operations of beef cattle, poultry and small ruminant farms of the government for conservation of native domestic breeds.

Section 4. Objectives. - The State shall endeavor to achieve the following objectives:

1. To protect human and environmental health from hazards caused by animal diseases and zoonoses;

2. To establish a modern and responsive veterinary services;

3. To formulate, promote, enforce, implement rules, policies and programs for the promotion of animal health, animal welfare and environment-friendly animal production processes;

4. To institutionalize inter-agency, multi-sectoral and local government cooperation on animal health and veterinary service programs;

5. To ensure animal food production safety and food security in support of poverty alleviation;

6. To guarantee compliance and harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and other veterinary protocols with international standards;

7. To promote an environment of global livestock trade competitiveness.

8. To establish nucleus and multiplier livestock breeder and production farms in support of the government's modernization programs in agriculture.

Section 5. Definition of Terms. - For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. Accreditation - refers to the procedure by which government agency having jurisdiction formally recognizes the competence of an inspection and/or certification body to provide inspection and certification services.
- b. Agribusiness - refers to the various businesses involved in food production, including farming, breed and feed supply, agrichemicals farm and processing machinery, wholesale and distribution, processing, marketing and retail sales. It also means making a "simple farmer" or "small backyard operator" into an "entrepreneur," by legalizing their business venture with distinct identity and by developing their own competitive edge in the industry group where they belong.
- c. Animal - refers to vertebrate and invertebrate species whether domestic or wild (exotic or indigenous) animals which maybe food producing, companion, aquatic, laboratory including birds, worms, bees and butterflies. The term excludes human and non-mammalian aquatic species.
- d. Animal facility - refers to structures or premises generally used for the purpose of caring, breeding, rearing, holding, gaming, training, trading, treating and exhibition such as but not limited to, farms, zoos, aviaries, apiaries, kennels, racetracks, cockpits, pet shops, pounds, animal rescue centers, airport and seaport quarantine stations, animal holding facilities, stables, livestock markets, slaughterhouses, veterinary clinics, and veterinary hospitals.
- e. Animal Health - refers to the over-all physical condition and well-being of animal(s).
- f. Animal Identification - refers to the combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier.
- g. Animal Identification System - refers to the inclusion and linking of component such as identification of establishments, owners, person or persons responsible for the animal(s), animal movements and other records with an animal identification.
- h. Animal Industry - refers to any activity relating to the production, breeding, caring, rearing, holding, trading, transporting and use of all animals; animal processing, marketing and feed milling;
- i. Animal Health Technician - refers to any person who is authorized by the Professional Regulations Commission to carry out certain designated and delegated tasks under the responsibility and supervision of a duly licensed veterinarian.
- j. Animal Production Food Safety and Security - refers to measures taken in farms and production areas to safeguard the health of the consuming public and ensure that the food derived therefrom is safe and of sufficient

quantity or supply. This includes measures taken to regulate and control the introduction of non-food animals to the food chain.

- k. **Animal Products and By-Products** - refer to any meat, fat, milk whey, cream, butter, cheese, egg or other food or foodstuffs derived from an animal; or any part of the viscera of an animal, hide, skin, hair, wool, feathers, shell, horn or hoof; or any article or substance derived from dung, urine, feces, bone, or blood of an animal; or any secretion of an animal or any product or biological preparation made or derived from any animal tissue or animal secretion; or any article or substance derived from an animal such as semen, whether or not in combination with any article or substance; or any article or substance or thing that is declared by order to be an animal product for the purposes of this Act.
- l. **Animal Registry** - refers to the list of information on animals (such identification, animal health, movement, certification, epidemiology, establishments) collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to be utilized by the NLVSA and its stakeholders.
- m. **Border Post** - refers to any airport, or seaport, railway station or road check-point open to domestic and international trade of commodities, where veterinary inspections are performed.
- n. **Buffer Zone** - refers to an area established to protect the health status of animals in a disease free country or disease free zones, from those in a country or zone of a different animal health status, using measures based on the epidemiology of the disease under consideration to prevent spread of the causative pathogenic agent into a free country or free zone. These measures may include, but are not limited to, vaccination, movement control and an intensified degree of disease surveillance.
- o. **Certification**- refers to the procedure by which official certification bodies or officially recognized certification bodies provide written or equivalent assurance that animal control systems conform to requirements.
- p. **Chief Veterinary Officer** - refers to a veterinarian who has the responsibility and competence of ensuring and supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organization for Animal Health or *Organization Internationale des Epizooties (OIE)* in the entire country.
- q. **Compartment** - refers to one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or diseases for which required surveillance, control, biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

- r. Competent Authority - refers to the NLVSA which is the official authority charged by the government in the control of animal health, welfare, animal production food safety and veterinary services.
- s. Confiscation - refers to taking into custody of animals, animal parts and/or products, and/or of animal effects by the competent authority for its proper disposal for having been the subject of violation of rules and regulations or posing risk to general human and animal welfare.
- t. Control Area or Zone - refers to an area around the infected area where restrictions will reduce and/or limit the chance of further spreading the disease.
- u. Diseases - refer to the impairment of normal state of living animals showing sub-clinical, clinical/pathological manifestation with infectious and non-infectious condition.
- v. Early Detection System - refers to a system for the timely detection and identification of animal and zoonotic diseases which includes the following characteristics, namely; (a) representative coverage of target animal populations by veterinary field services; (b) ability to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting; (c) access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases; and (d) training program for veterinarians and animal health technicians for detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence.
- w. Emerging Disease - refers to a new infection resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known infection spreading to a new geographic area or population, or a previously unrecognizable pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or public health.
- x. Epidemiology - refers to the science concerned with the study of factors determining and influencing the frequency and distribution of disease, injury and other health-related events and their causes in a defined population.
- y. Equivalence of Sanitary Measures - refers to the state wherein the sanitary measure(s) proposed by the exporting country as an alternative to those of the importing country achieve(s) the same level of protection
- z. Eradication - refers to the elimination of a pathogenic agent or disease from the country or zone/area/region.
- aa. Establishment - refers to entities engaged in the manufacture, production, preparation, handling, importation, exportation, sale, storage, offer for sale, distribution, transfer, use, testing, promotion, advertising or sponsorship of animals, animal products and by-products, veterinary drugs and biological products, feeds and feed ingredients, cosmetics, and devices.

- bb. Exporting Country - refers to the country of origin of commodities which are sent to another country.
- cc. Feed - refers to a mixture or combination of feed ingredients, supplements and additives, in any form, by specific formula to be fed directly as a sole ration to animals which is capable of furnishing the nutritional needs or requirements of the animal in order to maintain life, promote growth, production and reproduction without any additional substance except water.
- dd. Feed Ingredients - refer to all articles, in any form, that are added or mixed into the composition or which are used as raw materials in the formulation of a feed or ration, base feed, base mix, concentrate, feed supplement, feed additive, specialty feed and/or special feed preparation purporting to supply additional nutrients, such as but not limited to, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, vitamins, growth promoting factors and/or correcting nutritional disorders.
- ee. Free Zone - refers to an area which the absence of the disease under consideration has been complied in accordance with the requirements specified in the Terrestrial Code of the OIE for free status being met. Within the zone and at its borders, appropriate official veterinary control is effectively applied for animals and animal products, and their transportation.
- ff. Governance - refers to the process by which the Philippines government (national, regional and local), private sector, industry associations and other stakeholders collectively solve the problems, needs and concerns of the animal industry.
- gg. Hazard - refers to a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or a condition of an animal or animal product with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.
- hh. Indemnification - refers to the payment for any loss of animals or damage to its by-products in accordance with the guidelines established by the Veterinary Authority.
- ii. Infected Zone - refers to an area in which the disease under consideration is present.
- jj. Livestock - refers to food animals including poultry.
- kk. Livestock Agribusiness Marketing - refers to the critical roles marketing plays in the successful operation of an agribusiness firm by focusing on the six major parts of agribusiness marketing system such as: 1) the agricultural input industries; 2) the impact of technology-induced changes on production practices and the need for marketing awareness on the part of farmers as a way to achieve greater profitability; 3) the commodity processing and food manufacturing industries; 4) the food wholesaling

and retailing industries; 5) the food service industry; and 6) cooperative agribusiness.

- ll. Livestock Marketing System - refers to livestock economics system that relies upon the markets and market forces to allocate resources and goods, to determine prices and quantities of each product that will be produced.
- mm. Marketing - refers to the process of planning the conception, pricing, promotion and distribution of goods and services to create exchanges that satisfy individual and organizational objectives.
- nn. Market Infrastructure - refers to facilities including, but not limited livestock "oksyon" market, wet/public market buildings, weighing scale center, holding pens, warehouses, market information centers, slaughterhouses, connecting roads, transport and communication and cold storage used by the livestock farmers in marketing their produce.
- oo. Marketing Information System - refers to an information system concerned with the collection, storage, and analysis of information and data for marketing decision making purposes. Information for use in marketing information systems is gathered from customers, competitors and their products, and from the market itself.
- pp. Marketing Intelligence - refers to data/information obtained both publicly & privately by market players that reflect a myriad of factors regarding prices, stocks, trends, government policies affecting supply or demand, production and consumption of products, by-products and allied products in an industry, e.g. animal industry, to achieve a marketing or business-related competitiveness.
- qq. Market Research - refers to the identification of a specific market and measurement of its size and other characteristics collected from direct observation of the consumers (such as in retail stores), mail surveys, telephone or face-to-face interviews, and from published sources (such as demographic data).
- rr. Notifiable Disease - refers to disease listed by the Veterinary Authority, and that, as soon as detected or suspected, must be brought to the attention of the Veterinary Authority, in accordance with national regulations.
- ss. Notification - refers to the procedure by which the Local Veterinary Authority informs the National Veterinary Authority, of the occurrence of an outbreak of disease or infection.
- tt. *Office Internationale des Epizooties* (OIE) or the World Organization for Animal Health - is the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health worldwide. It is recognized as a reference organization by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

- uu. Quarantine - refers to the act of isolating animals from other animals with no direct or indirect contact with other animals, to prevent the transmission of specified pathogen(s) while the animals are undergoing observation, and, if appropriate, testing and treatment, for a specified length of time and/or to determine their freedom from disease.
- vv. Production processes - refer to the transformational steps in the conversion of raw materials to finished products.
- ww. Poultry - includes chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, gamefowls, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, and ratites reared or kept in captivity for breeding, production of meat or eggs for consumption or for re-stocking supplies of game.
- xx. Professional Regulation Commission - Board of Veterinary Medicine (PRC-BVM) - refers to an autonomous authority regulating veterinarians and animal health technicians.
- yy. Quarantine Station - refers to a facility under the control of the veterinary services where animals are under quarantine/isolation for observation.
- zz. Risk - refers to the likelihood of the occurrence and the likely magnitude of consequences of an adverse event to animal or human health in the importing country during a specified time period, as a result of hazardous elements.
- aaa. Risk Analysis - refers to the process composed of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.
- bbb. Risk Assessment - refers to the evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic consequences of entry, establishment, or spread of a pathogenic agent within the territory of an importing country.
- ccc. Risk Communication - refers to the interactive exchange of information on risk among risk assessors, risk managers and other interested parties.
- ddd. Risk Management - refers to the process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of risk
- eee. Sanitary Measure - refers to any scheme or strategy applied to protect animal or human health or life within the territory of the country from the risks arising from the entry, establishment or spread of a hazardous element.
- fff. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures - refers to the set of legal framework for international trade of animals, animal products and by products, veterinary biologics, drugs, products and devices, animal feeds and feed ingredients that is safe for public, animal and plant health with important provisions on harmonization, equivalence, assessment of risk and

appropriate level of protection, regionalization, transparency and notification.

- ggg. Shipping Permit - refers to the document issued by the NL VSA authorizing the person indicated therein to ship or transport the stated items to their indicated destination(s).
- hhh. Third Party Certification or Independent Certification – refers to the process wherein a firm requires that its suppliers meet a certain standard and requests an independent organization that is not involved in the business relationship to control the compliance of the suppliers.
- iii. Traceability - refers to the ability to follow or monitor the history/record of an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life.
- jjj. Vaccination - refers to the successful immunization of susceptible animals through the administration of appropriate immunizing agents comprising of antigens or bacterins or any agent appropriate to the disease to be controlled.
- kkk. Veterinarian - refers to a person who has been registered and issued a valid certificate of registration and professional identification card by Professional Regulatory Commission Board of Veterinary Medicine of the Philippines.
- III. Veterinary Authority - refers to the government authority, comprising of duly licensed veterinarians, having the responsibility and competence of ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the Terrestrial Code of the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health).
- mmm. Veterinary Biological Products - refer to all microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, etc.), components or products of microorganisms, antigens, antisera, bacterins, immunoglobulins and analogous products of natural or of synthetic origin, including genetically modified organisms, diagnostic kits and reagents, serums, toxins and antitoxins intended for use in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of animal diseases and for research purposes.
- nnn. Veterinary Cosmetics - refer to any substance or preparation intended to be placed in contact with the various external parts of the animal body or with the teeth, mucous membranes of the oral cavity, with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance and/or correcting the body odor, and/or protecting the body or keeping the same in good condition.
- ooo. Veterinary Device - refers to any instruments, apparatuses, implements, machines, appliances or contrivances, including their components, parts and accessories intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation,

treatment and prevention of animal diseases or to affect the structure or any function of the body or animals.

ppp. Veterinary Drug - refers to articles for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of diseases of animals.

qqq. Veterinary Products - as use in this Act shall collectively refer to veterinary biologicals, drugs, devices, and cosmetics as defined herein and to other substances applied to animal facilities such as but not limited to disinfectants, insecticides, and substances that modify or extend physiological functions, behaviors or availability such as but not limited to hormones, growth promotants, probiotics and acidifiers.

rrr. Veterinary Inspector - refers to any duly-licensed veterinarian employed by the national or local government unit primarily tasked to diagnose, investigate and control animal diseases and other such duties stipulated in this Act.

sss. Veterinary Personnel - refers to an employee working in a veterinary office.

ttt. Veterinary Services - refer to the activities in the implementation of animal health, welfare, feeds and animal production food safety by government and non-government organizations.

uuu. Zone / Region - refers to a clearly defined part of the country containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

vvv. Zoonosis - refers to any disease or infection which is naturally transmissible from animals to human.

Chapter II

STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

Section 6. The National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority. – The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) shall be renamed as the "National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA)", an attached line agency up to the regional level under the Department of Agriculture, chiefly responsible for overseeing and promoting the health, welfare and productivity of the national animal population for food safety, food security and rural development.

The NLVSA shall be headed by a Director General, with the rank of undersecretary, who must possess a minimum experience of ten (10) years in practice as a duly licensed veterinarian. He shall be assisted by a Deputy Director General for Regulatory Services and a Deputy Director General for Research, Development and Extension Services, who, likewise, must both possess a minimum experience of ten (10) years practice as a duly licensed veterinarian.

The Director General, and Deputy Directors General shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, while, the Center Directors, Regional Directors and Director for Administrative Support Services shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. All personnel below the Director and Regional Director levels shall be appointed by the Director General.

Section 7. Powers and Functions - The NLVSA shall have the following principal powers through the Director General or his duly designated representative:

1. Regulatory Authority. - The NLVSA shall have authority to regulate animal health, animal welfare, animal production food safety and matters connected or pertaining to, but not limited to general sanitary measures, risk analysis, animal quarantine, diagnosis of diseases, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs and biological products, and other pharmaceuticals and products used on animals and the environment, animal facilities, equipments, devices and cosmetics, veterinary research, animal production and international certification procedures.

2. Technical Assistance and Supervision. - The NLVSA shall provide technical training for the capacity building and strengthening of livestock and veterinary services related functions of all national government agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs). It shall exercise technical supervision over veterinary offices and veterinary related functions of all national government agencies and LGUs. This includes oversight authority to require mandatory notification and coordination, submission of reports and other pertinent data regarding animal disease situations, within the respective areas or jurisdictions of other government agencies and local government units.

3. Assumption of Control. - The NLVSA is authorized, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and in coordination with the concerned LGU and regional officials of other agencies, to assume full control and direction in the management of local and regional outbreaks of dangerous communicable and zoonotic animal diseases, where the animal and/or human health status of the country, as recommended by the hereunder described National Advisory Committee on Animal Diseases and Emergency (NAC-ADE), is in actual or imminent danger.

4. Visitorial Power - The NLVSA, through its duly authorized veterinary officers, upon presenting appropriate credentials or authority to the owner, manager, operator, agent or any person within the premises, shall have the power to enter and inspect anytime but following down time requirements of livestock and poultry farms and other animal establishments, conduct collection of laboratory specimens and samples with proper description and receipt of those taken, and when required by circumstances and as authorized by the Director General or his representative, impose preventive and control measures therein, in coordination with, and as may be necessary, subject to biosafety entry requirements of concerned owners and caretakers.

5. Declaration of Quarantine - The Director General through a written order of quarantine shall cause the immediate holding or detention for thirty (30) days or for

such longer period, if necessary, for observation and testing of animals, animal parts, products, and by-products, feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biologics, drugs, products and devices, and such other materials or substances which are found or deemed to be infected or carriers of dangerous animal diseases.

6. Seizure and Confiscation - The NLVSA shall have the authority to seize and confiscate animals, animal parts, products, and by-products, feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biologics, drugs, products and devices, and such other materials or substances that are undocumented, or of unknown source and conditions, and are showing signs of dangerous animal diseases, or reasonably suspected to be infected with or carriers of dangerous animal diseases, contaminated with toxic materials, or posing an imminent danger, threat and injury to the overall animal health situation in declared disease-free zones, areas or compartments, and border posts of the country.

7. Animal Condemnation and Eradication Measures - The NLVSA shall have the authority to institute condemnation and eradication measures on animals that are diseased or reasonably suspected to be infected with diseases, and are deemed a great risk to the livestock population and/or public health.

8. Call for Assistance - The Director General may call upon any government agency for any form of assistance consistent with its powers, duties, and responsibilities for the purpose of ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of this Act and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder.

9. Delegation - The NLVSA shall have the authority to deputize local government and private veterinarians to perform disease control, measures to obviate any animal welfare concerns and animal health matters for proper implementation of national disease control policies and programs at all levels. The DG shall deputize Animal Welfare Officers from Non Government Organizations (NGOs), citizens groups, community organizations and other volunteers who have undergone the necessary training and accreditation for this purpose. As such, the Animal Welfare Officers shall have the full authority to seize and confiscate affected animals in violation of the provisions of the Act, subject to existing rules and regulation on arrest and detention.

10. Emergency Response - In the event of natural and man-made disasters, the NLVSA shall ensure the safety and protection of the animal population following the quick response "Oplan Sagip Hayop" scheme. The NLVSA shall administer and supervise the effective implementation of this Act and its rules and regulations. It shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities under this Act.

Section 8. Organizational Structure - The technical, administrative, finance and support services of the NLVSA shall be strengthened as may be appropriate and necessary to carry out effectively the provisions of this Act. Various Centers shall be established under the NLVSA and each Center shall be headed by a Director, who must possess a minimum practice of five (5) years as a veterinarian, with supervisory experience in any related field. Each center shall include divisions which

shall be headed by a division chief with minimum management experience of three (3) years. The Centers established are as follows:

1. Center for Animal Health and Welfare - The Center shall be responsible for veterinary epidemiology, animal disease surveillance systems, animal disease prevention, control and eradication programs, risk analysis, herd health management, animal welfare and animal health information.

The center shall have the following divisions: (a) Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (b) Animal Disease Control and Veterinary Public Health, (c) Animal Welfare and (d) Animal Health Information and Communication.

2. Center for Veterinary Quarantine Services - The Center shall be primarily responsible in issuing import and export certifications and conducting pre- and post-border inspections and monitoring, accreditation, quarantine, and if warranted by biosecurity procedures, instituting immediate seizure and/or confiscation of animals, animal parts, products, and by-products, feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biologics, drugs, products and devices, and such other materials or substances posing threat or harm to animal health. The Center shall also be responsible for the maintenance of quarantine stations and enforcement of animal quarantine and welfare rules and regulations in the various inland and offshore shipping routes of the country.

The Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Sanitary and PhytoSanitary Trade Facilitation (b) Veterinary Quarantine Inspection and Monitoring, and (c) Biosecurity.

3. Center for Animal Disease Diagnosis - The Center shall primarily conduct laboratory diagnosis of animal diseases and act as a repository of data on disease diagnosis. It shall be responsible for the management of regional veterinary diagnostic laboratories, including the monitoring of certified/accredited private animal disease diagnostic laboratories. CADD shall also be the National Reference Center for Animal Disease Diagnosis.

The Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Pathobiology, (b) Bacteriology & Mycobiology, (c) Virology, (d) Laboratory Standards and Compliance and (e) National Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Information Management and Coordination.

4. Center for Animal Feeds, Veterinary Products and Establishments Regulation - The Center shall regulate the manufacture, production, importation, exportation, distribution, handling, sale, offer for sale, transfer, promotion, advertisement, the use and testing of premixes, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary drugs, biologicals, cosmetics and devices and all other types of veterinary products and establishments. It shall likewise conduct assays on the quality, safety, potency and efficacy of these products and veterinary drug residues in animal products except meat.

The Center shall include the following divisions: (a) Registration, Licensing, & Accreditation, (b) Inspection and Compliance and (c) Laboratory Services.

5. Animal Genetic Resource Management and Improvement Center – This Center shall be responsible for formulating policies and programs for sustainable animal genetic resources of domestic animals. It shall prepare in consultation with various stakeholders the national strategy and action plan for the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources in particular the native food animals.

The Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Breed Registry and Central Data Management (b) Gene Bank (c) Native Pigs (d) Native Poultry (e) Native Cattle, Goat and Sheep (f) Native Horses.

6. Center for Animal Research and Product Development - This Center shall address the national agenda for all researches on animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety and security in coordination, collaboration and consultation with international and local agencies and stakeholders.

It shall also be responsible for the generation of technology, technology adaptation and demonstration necessary for maximum utilization of available resources in accordance with the requirements of the national animal research, production and development agenda and shall also serve as repository of all animal research and scientific information.

This Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Animal Production Research, (b) Veterinary Product Research and Standards Development and (c) Animal Product Development.

7. Center for Livestock Trade Promotion and Development - This Center shall be primarily responsible for the promotion of the National Agenda for the development and implementation of sustainable livestock business development, animal industry strategic management, animal supply chain management, animal knowledge and information network, participatory governance, animal market and post- production development and animal market infrastructure and animal statistics and marketing intelligence, animal marketing system programs and activities.

The center shall have following divisions: (a) Livestock Business and Industry Strategic Development (b) Market and Post-production Development (c) Socio-Economic and Marketing Research.

Section 9. Regional Livestock and Veterinary Services Offices (RLVSOs) - Regional Livestock and Veterinary Services Offices of the NLVSA shall be created at the regional level to be headed by the Regional Director, who must possess a minimum experience of five (5) years as a veterinarian. He shall be assisted by Chiefs of Divisions necessary in the performance of regional operations

All existing DA regional staff performing veterinary services and functions are hereby transferred to the RLVSO.

Section 10. Administrative Support Services -The NLVSA shall be assisted by an Administrative Support Services which shall be headed by Director and Regional Chiefs of Division, who must possess a minimum management experience of five (5) years and three (3) years in any related field, respectively. It shall have the

following divisions or units, as maybe applicable, to wit: (a) Assets and Finance, (b) Human Resource Development, (c) Property and Logistics Management (d) Legal Support Services, (e) Monitoring & Evaluation, (f) Planning & International Desk, and (g) Information and Communication Technology Management.

Chapter III

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER, VETERINARY INSPECTORS AND ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS

Section 11. Chief Veterinary Officer. - The Director General of the NLVSA shall be the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of the country. He shall be primarily responsible in the formulation and implementation of national policies, strategies, priorities and action plans on animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety. He shall also represent the country in official international dialogue on animal health matters.

The CVO shall coordinate and, as much as possible, establish linkages with allied government agencies, the private sector and academe in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control and eradication to ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.

The CVO shall also endeavor to address current, recurring, new and prospective national issues and concerns on animal health, animal welfare, feeds and animal food production safety and security, with regional and global impact through the help of other allied government agencies and stakeholders.

Section 12. Veterinary Inspectors (VI) - The Secretary of Agriculture, upon recommendation of the Director General of the NLVSA, may by instrument in writing, appoint or deputize veterinarians as Veterinary Inspectors under this Act. The appointment of the Regional Veterinary Inspectors shall be made by the Regional Director with the concurrence of the Director General. The Director General shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the National and Regional Veterinary Inspectors.

The services of the Veterinary Inspectors shall be entitled to incentives and overtime work when the interest of the service so requires and the services performed outside of the office hours and other expenses shall be chargeable to the parties served, at the rates to be prescribed by the Secretary upon the recommendation of the Director General.

Section 13. Animal Health Technician - An Animal Health Technician is a person who is authorized by the PRC to carry out certain designated tasks in a country and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of the veterinarian. The tasks authorized for each category of veterinary para-professional shall be defined by the PRC depending on qualifications and training, and according to need.

Section 14. Magna Carta for Public Health Workers - Veterinarians, Animal Health Technicians and other veterinary personnel performing veterinary public

health related activities employed under the National Government Agencies (NGAs) and LGUs are public health workers and shall be entitled to the provisions and compensations stipulated under RA 7305 (Magna Carta for Public Health Workers).

Chapter IV

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Section 15. National and Regional Advisory Committees for Animal Diseases and Emergency. - The existing National and Regional Advisory Committees on Animal Disease Control and Emergency (NAC-ADCE/RAC-ADCE), which were created in the advent of emerging diseases are hereby renamed and institutionalized in this Act as the National and Regional Advisory Committees on Animal Diseases and Emergency (NAC-ADE/RAC-ADE) under the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Chairperson of the NAC-ADE shall be a duly licensed veterinarian of good standing in the veterinary profession, a practicing veterinarian for at least ten (10) years. He shall be designated as such by the Secretary of Agriculture from the recommendation of the regular members from the private sector. The manner in the filling up of the members of the committee shall be prescribed and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture upon recommendation of the Director General. The composition of the committee shall be updated from time to time and as may be needed by circumstances.

Section 16. Duties and Functions. - The NAC-ADE and RAC-ADE shall submit their recommendations directly to the Secretary of Agriculture and perform the following duties and functions:

1. Recommend policies and measures on the following:
 - a. Risk analyses and import protocols, prevention, control, eradication and monitoring of economically harmful animal diseases including zoonotic diseases;
 - b. Procedures to be followed in times of emergencies, e.g., nationwide epidemic of food animal and zoonotic diseases and during disasters, either man-made or natural;
 - c. Verification of reports on emerging zoonotic animal diseases;
 - d. Support the CVO in sourcing funds from national and international funding agencies.
2. The NAC-ADE shall coordinate the activities of the various Regional Advisory Committee on Animal Diseases and Emergency (RAC-ADEs) which is the regional counterpart and have similar function advising the Secretary of Agriculture and the respective Regional Directors (RDs);

3. Create sub-committees to address special issues and concerns of the NLVSA and other agencies.
4. Assist in the review of policies, programs, and projects for the development of the National Veterinary Services.
5. Assist in the evaluation of the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the programs and projects of the NLVSA.

Section 17. National Advisory Committee for the Welfare of Animals (NACWA)

- The CAW created under RA 8485 shall be renamed the NACWA which is a multi-agency/multi sectoral committee which shall be chaired by a representative from any of the private sector subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The Committee shall be responsible for the formulation of rules and regulations for the strict implementation of the provisions of this Act and RA 8485.

The Committee shall be composed of representatives from the following agency/sector:

- a. Department of Agriculture
- b. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- c. Department of Interior and Local Government
- d. Department of Education
- e. Provincial, City and Municipal Veterinarians' League of the Philippines
- f. Philippines Veterinary Medical Association
- g. Non-Government Organizations
- h. Peoples' Organizations
- i. Academe

Section 18. Animal Feed Services Advisory Committee (AFSAC) - The Animal Feed Control Advisory Committee (AFCAC) created under Republic Act No 1556, as amended by Presidential Decree No.7, which adopted into law Senate Bill No. 627, is hereby renamed Animal Feed Services Advisory Committee with eleven (11) members, the composition of which shall be modified to add three (3) more members as follows: one legal representative from the NLVSA, one representative from the Legal Division of DA and one from the Philippine College of Veterinary Feed Practitioners.

The AFSAC shall continue to exercise its functions in matters related to the animal feed industry, except as provided in Section 66 of SB No. 627 hereof.

Section 19. Mandatory Review and Evaluation - The recommendations of the NAC-ADE, NACWA, and AFSAC shall be subject to mandatory review and evaluation by the Director General, before the same are submitted for final approval by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 20. Other Advisory Committees - Other Advisory Committees may be created to assist the NLVSA in the implementation of its various programs and projects.

Chapter V

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND LOCAL VETERINARY OFFICERS

Section 21. LGU Assistance and Cooperation - Local Government Units (LGUs) shall assist and closely cooperate with the NLVSA in the implementation of the provisions of this Act. They shall extend any available manpower, security, material and financial resources to any national animal disease prevention and control measures, animal welfare and other national programs being undertaken by the NLVSA within their respective jurisdictions.

Section 22. Creation of Municipal Veterinary Positions - The position of municipal veterinarian shall be mandatory in all first class municipalities and optional in other municipalities.

Section 23. Responsibilities of Provincial, City and Municipal Veterinarians - In addition to the duties of a veterinary officer as provided in Section 489 of Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", it shall be the duty of veterinary officers, as the case maybe, to:

1. Ensure the implementation of policies, rules and regulations issued by NLVSA and other coordinating agencies in accordance with the provisions of this Act and its related laws, rules and regulations towards the enforcement of animal disease prevention, control measures and animal welfare regulations.
2. Extend assistance, as may be necessary, to the NLVSA in the implementation or enforcement of animal disease prevention and control measures, and animal welfare within their area of responsibility.
3. Comply with all reportorial and documentary requirements needed by the NLVSA in the implementation of this Act.

Section 24. Issuance of Mayor's Permit - No LGU shall issue any Mayor's Permit to operate any farm, clinic, animal facility, kennel or any other veterinary establishment unless the owner/operator has secured clearance from the provincial, city or municipal veterinarian attesting to the fact that the establishment has complied with all the requirements prescribed under NLVSA rules and regulations.

Chapter VI

ROLE OF ALLIED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-27 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Section 25. Allied Government Agencies - Allied government agencies that are performing veterinary services and related functions shall continue to do so. The DG of the NLVSA as the national competent authority shall call upon other allied government agencies and academe in the implementation of this Act.

Section 26. Other Agencies and Sectors - The NLVSA shall establish agreements with other government sectors, private sectors, academe and other relevant agencies and stakeholders in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control, eradication and to ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.

Section 27. Responsibilities - All government agencies and private entities performing veterinary and related functions shall cooperate fully with the Director General as CVO and comply with the set policies and technical standards for veterinary services.

Chapter VII

ANIMAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY

Section 28. Duty to Report Notifiable Diseases - All animal and livestock producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, animal facility operators and farm consultants who have in their possession or care, animals or animal products infected or suspected to be infected, or have reasonable grounds to believe that the animal or animal product is infected with a Notifiable Disease are duty bound to report to the concerned Local Government Unit -Veterinary Office or to the NLVSA or to the RL VSO immediately within 24 hours by the quickest means possible.

These notifiable diseases are, but not limited to, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF, Hog Cholera), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Newcastle Disease (ND) or Avian Pest, Rabies, Anthrax and Hemorrhagic Septicemia. The NLVSA shall provide a complete list of Notifiable Diseases and their reporting guidelines which shall be updated from time to time.

Section 29. Proper Disposal of Dead Animals and Potentially Infective Materials - Dead animals, manure, and other potentially infective materials from regular operations of farms, clinics, animal facilities shall be disposed in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations and guidelines set by NLVSA.

Section 30. Animal Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology - All agencies performing veterinary services shall be responsible in monitoring animal disease

situation by conducting regular surveillance of the animal and livestock population in their respective jurisdiction and are required to report periodically to the NLVSA.

Section 31. National Registry, Animal Identification and Traceability of Livestock - A national registry of animal facilities and establishments shall be established by the NLVSA. An animal identification system shall also be developed to be able to trace the origin of each animal or groups of animals. The NLVSA in consultation with livestock stakeholders shall also establish farm classification system in accordance with accepted standard and parameters.

Section 32. Mandatory Vaccination - To prevent, control, and eradicate emerging or re-emerging, communicable and exotic diseases, all animals shall have to be vaccinated in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

Section 33. Emergency Preparedness - The NLVSA shall draft the National Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Plans in response to animal health, welfare and animal production food safety. Measures shall also be developed to mitigate the effect of climate change in the livestock industry.

Section 34. Animal Welfare Practices - All animal producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, animal facility operators and farm consultants who have in their possession or care, animals shall adopt and observe animal welfare regulations and practices.

Section 35. Animal Health, Welfare and Animal Production Food Safety Information System - The NLVSA shall develop a more effective animal health information system involving agencies and other stakeholders on animal health, welfare and animal production food safety including establishment of an effective information network.

Section 36. Risk Analysis - Principles of risk analysis shall be incorporated in all policy formulation and standard setting.

Section 37. Veterinary Public Health -The NLVSA shall take the lead role in the formulation and implementation of veterinary public health programs and activities particularly in the prevention and control of zoonoses and food safety.

Section 38. Mandatory Engagement of the Professional Services of a Veterinarian - All animal establishments such as but not limited to farms, zoos, kennels, apiaries, aviaries, livestock markets, animal race tracks and cockpits shall engage the professional services of a veterinarian based on minimum number of animals and other parameters to be prescribed by the NLVSA, in consultation with concerned sectors.

Section 39. Farm Inspection and Certification - The NLVSA in consultation with stakeholders shall establish standards and parameters on farm inspection and certification.

Chapter VIII

COMPENSATION TO SUPPORT DISEASE ERADICATION

Section 40. Creation of a Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund -

A Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund shall be provided for in the General Appropriations Act annually and be held by the Authority. It shall not be reduced and shall not revert to the General Fund even if the same is not used for a current fiscal year. An initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P 500,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated to start the seed fund for the Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund.

Section 41. Fund Utilization -The Fund shall be applied for the payment of compensation to the owner of animals. It shall also be utilized for the payment of expenses directly connected with controlling, eradicating or preventing, the spread of any animal disease that is notifiable or emerging or re-emerging, exotic and zoonotic including administrative expenses.

Section 42. Coverage of Compensation - Only those animals that were stamped out pursuant to the Depopulation Order issued by the Director General, as recommended by NAC-ADE and as approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, to prevent further spread of the disease should be indemnified. Dead animals due to notifiable and emerging or re-emerging, exotic and zoonotic diseases are not compensable.

Section 43. Compensable Amount -The amount of compensation payable shall not be more than Sixty Percent (60%) of the market value of the identified animals that are ordered depopulated on account of a disease.

Section 44. Issuance of Compensation Guidelines - Guidelines for the payment of compensation shall be prescribed by the NLVSA in consultation with stakeholders.

Chapter IX

QUARANTINE MEASURES

Section 45. Border Post Entry - The importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs, biologicals, cosmetics and devices, and other potential vectors of animal diseases shall be subjected to close veterinary inspection, quarantine and test as may be deemed appropriate and necessary, and examination of required document such as, but not limited to, (1) an Authority to Import duly issued by the NLVSA and secured prior to the importation, and (2) a Veterinary Health Certificate and/or Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) Clearance, or its equivalent, and such other documents as may be required by the NLVSA to be obtained from the proper authorities of the country of origin.

Section 46. Release from Customs Zone - The Bureau of Customs or its representative shall not allow the release of any article of importation that is subject to veterinary inspection, quarantine and examination procedures unless the NLVSA or its duly authorized representative has issued a Veterinary Quarantine Compliance Certificate or Lifting of Quarantine for the particular shipment, as the case may be.

Section 47. Prohibited Importation - No importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects and other related products such as but not limited to fodder crops and forage shall be allowed from countries known or declared to be infected with a dangerous communicable animal disease or diseases which has been banned to export the said products to the Philippines and where there is a possible danger of spreading or introducing such disease or diseases into the Philippines by the importation of such item. All in-transit shipments at the time of the occurrence of the foreign disease or contagion shall be subjected to strict quarantine and laboratory testing, or automatically denied entry and/or confiscation and disposal, and as the NLVSA may determine, in the overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country.

Section 48. Wildlife and Endangered Species - In accordance with Section of Article 14 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) on effect on domestic legislation and international conventions, all kinds of wildlife that are subject to veterinary quarantine regulations shall be under NLVSA jurisdiction.

Section 49. Exportation Clearance or Certificate - No animals, animal products, animal by-products animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and biologics shall be allowed to be exported and loaded on board ships and airplanes or any vehicle unless it is accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate and/or Commodity Clearance duly issued by the NLVSA and it has complied with the quarantine requirements of the country of destination.

Section 50. Transshipment - In the transshipment of live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, and veterinary products, all importer/shippers shall comply with the health and welfare rules and regulations prescribed by the NLVSA.

Section 51. Domestic Shipping - All inland and inter-island shipments of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary drugs and biologics from one province or region to another shall be accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate or Shipping Permit duly issued by the Director General or his duly-authorized representatives.

Section 52. Illegal or Unauthorized Shipments - Shipments of animals, animal products, by-products, veterinary drugs, biologics and feeds which are found to be in violation of this Act or rules and regulations issued thereunder, or orders of the Director General or his veterinary quarantine officers shall be confiscated and disposed of in a manner prescribed by the Director General.

Section 53. Registration of Commercial Livestock Traders and Shippers – All commercial livestock trader and shippers or handlers who are engaged in the inter-provincial and regional shipment/transportation of livestock shall register with the RLVSO in order to maintain disease free areas and achieve safe, clean and orderly handling of commodities through the various stages of marketing or distribution channels.

Section 54. Prescribing Standard Operating Procedures for Veterinary Quarantine Services in all Seaports and Airports - The NLVSA shall establish a standard operating procedure for the Veterinary Quarantine Services at the different seaports and airports in the country

Section 55. Rendering of Underguarding and Overtime Services - Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors and other duly designated personnel are authorized to render underguarding and overtime work when the interest of the service so requires and the services performed outside office hours and other expenses shall be chargeable to the party or parties served at the rates to be prescribed by the Director General and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 56. Declaration of Infected Areas, Premises or Zones - If the Director General has reasonable grounds to believe that any premises, place or area is infected with a Notifiable Disease, he may, by a written order, declare an area to be infected. In case of an outbreak of communicable animal and zoonotic diseases, the Director General has the power to declare the area, region, province or specific farm or establishment under quarantine.

Section 57. Movement in Infected Areas - Movement of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary drugs, biologics, and transport vehicles reasonably suspected to be exposed or contaminated with a Notifiable Disease shall be restricted in areas, region, province or specific farm or establishment that are declared infected, unless authorized by the Director General or his duly-authorized representative. In the event of a disease outbreak, zones shall be established to restrict the movement of animals between zones. Notices declaring the areas under quarantine shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the Municipal and/or Barangay Hall, as the case may be.

Section 58. Lifting of Order of Quarantine - The Director General shall issue an order lifting the quarantine where the areas, region, province or specific farm or establishment declared to be infected are eventually determined to be safe and out of danger from such infection. This shall authorize the resumption of shipments within the affected places.

Section 59. Duty of Owner or Holder -A person who owns or is in charge of, or has in his or her possession or control, an animal or animal product which the person has reasonable grounds to suspect is infected with a notifiable disease must as far as practicable, keep that animal or animal product separate from non-infected animals or animal products.

Section 60. Controlled Shipments - It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, administer or use infectious disease agents, for scientific, laboratory or other

purposes, unless duly authorized by a special permit by the Director General to handle hazardous materials.

Section 61. Depopulation Order - The Director General or his duly authorized representative may, by a written Depopulation Order require the stamping out of healthy animals in declared infected areas, premises or zones to prevent further spread of the disease.

Section 62. Destruction Order -The Director General or his duly authorized representative may, by a written Destruction Order require the proper disposal of (1) any animal, animal product, fodder which is infected, or reasonably suspected to be infected with a Notifiable Disease; (2) confiscated expired, banned, unregistered, counterfeit, veterinary biologics, drugs and products.

Section 63. Disinfection Order - The Director General or his duly authorized representative may, by a written Disinfection Order, likewise, require the owner or person in charge or in apparent control of an area which is infected, or reasonably suspected to be infected with a Notifiable Disease, to clean and disinfect said area, including vehicles or any material found therein.

Section 64. Disease-Free Areas - Declaration of any area as disease-free shall be made by the NLVSA Director General upon the recommendation of concerned animal health authorities of said office. The declaration of an area as disease-free shall be subject to the guidelines set by concerned NLVSA.

Section 65. Expenses of Quarantine and Authority to Auction - The owner, consignee or possessor of the animals placed under quarantine shall reimburse the NLVSA for the expenses incurred during the quarantine period of such animals. In case of his failure to do so after a Lifting Order of Quarantine has been issued and duly served upon him, the NLVSA shall have the right to auction off his animals to recover such expenses made.

Chapter X

QUARANTINE FACILITIES

Section 66. Establishment of Veterinary Quarantine Stations - The NLVSA shall establish and maintain quarantine stations for the detention, treatment and observation of domestic animals in such places as may be approved from time to time by the Secretary of Agriculture, and to place all animals arriving from foreign and domestic ports or interior places in quarantine for such time as he may deem necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of dangerous communicable animal diseases.

Section 67. National Veterinary Quarantine Station - The pasture reserve known as the Government Cattle Breeding/Grazing Reserve and Experimental Station at Busuanga and Coron, Palawan pursuant to Proclamation No. 1387, dated February 13, 1975 and Presidential Decree No. 1593 is hereby reclassified as alienable and disposable lands of the public domain and hereby reserved for the National Veterinary Quarantine Station and Busuanga Stock Farm of the NLVSA

Chapter XI

SPS FACILITATION & HARMONIZATION

Section 68. International Harmonization - The NLVSA shall study and review national standards on animal health, animal welfare and farm feed and food safety, participate in international for a relative to formulation and adoption of international standards and harmonize our national standards with relevant international standards.

Section 69. Certification Systems - The NLVSA shall in consultation with stakeholders develop certification systems including third party certifications on animal health, animal welfare, farm feed and food safety products, services and production in accordance with national and international standards.

Section 70. Equivalence and Other Types of Sanitary Agreements - The NLVSA in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders shall develop, negotiate and implement appropriate level of protection (ALOP) in relation to human and animal life and health in its territory, based on the principle of equivalence and other types of sanitary and trade agreements with trading partners such as but not limited to, the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Section 70. Transparency - The NLVSA shall have the responsibility to notify the OIE and/or the WTO SPS Committee of the country's animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety sanitary and phytosanitary status and other relevant matters and inform stakeholders on the changes in the regulations and decisions.

Section 72. Zoning - The NLVSA shall have the authority to apply for recognition to the OIE the disease free zones and shall implement relevant measures and practices to establish and maintain these disease-free zones as based on physical boundaries.

Section 73. Compartmentalization - The NLVSA shall establish and maintain disease-free areas within its territory in accordance with OIE recommendations.

Chapter XII

VETERINARY LABORATORIES

Section 74. Certification/Accreditation - The NLVSA shall be responsible for controlling both government and non-government veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the field through the Center for Animal Disease Diagnosis. Only duly certified laboratory facilities are allowed to do diagnostic services. The NLVSA shall develop guidelines and standards in the certification/accreditation of various veterinary laboratory facilities and establish quality systems towards international certification.

Section 75. Biosafety and Biosecurity - Standards and guidelines for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity shall be established and practiced by veterinary and feed analysis laboratories per national and international recommendations.

Section 76. Proficiency Testing - A system of quality assurance shall be developed and implemented to ensure continuing proficiency and competency of certified/accredited diagnostic and assay laboratories.

Chapter XIII

REGULATIONS ON ANIMAL FEEDS AND VETERINARY PRODUCTS

Section 77. Implementing Rules and Regulations - In consonance with RA 1556, as amended by PD No.7, RA 1071, and Act 3101, the NLVSA shall provide the necessary rules and regulations on the manufacture, production, handling, storage, sale and use of veterinary biological products, drugs and products, devices, mixed feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, other feed products and their establishments which have to be followed and complied with for registration.

Section 78. Registration and Licensing - Each class, type, brand or trademark of veterinary biological products, drugs, devices, cosmetics, mixed feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, and other feed products, inclusive of the establishments shall be registered individually and shall be assigned separate registration numbers. A permanent Book of Records on the registration number, codes assigned on each product and indicated therein the class, type, brand or trade mark, technical description and manufacturer/importer of each product registered shall be kept.

Section 79. Importation of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Biologics, Drugs and Related Products - Importation of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Biologics, Drugs and Related Products without valid SPS and permits shall not be allowed entry. All in-transit shipments at the time of the occurrence of the foreign disease or contagion shall be subjected to strict quarantine and laboratory testing, or automatically denied entry and/or confiscation and disposal, as the NLVSA may determine, in the overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country.

Section 80. Warning and Temporary Revocation and Suspension of License or Permit - Failure of any grantee of license or permit to comply with any of the requirements provided in this Act or its implementing rules and regulations without justifiable or valid reason, as motu proprio determined by the Director General, shall be sufficient ground for the initial issuance of warning, or immediate temporary suspension or revocation of such license or permit for not more than sixty (60) days, subject to the institution of formal proceedings within the said period.

Chapter XIV

ANIMAL AND LIVESTOCK TRADE PROMOTION

Section 81. Animal Industry Market Profiles - The NLVSA shall maintain a database of national, regional and local animal industry market profile to support in the business development of animal industries and allied industries and shall integrate marketing information and develop a knowledge management system of the different commodities/industries from national to local level.

Section 82. Country Animal Products Export Strategies - The NLVSA shall formulate country animal products export strategies, conduct research and benchmark export/import protocols, prepare industry analysis and reports of potential export market of the different animal food commodities, and spearhead in the promotion of exportable products and by-products to improve the performance of local agribusiness establishments producing these tradable products and by-products.

Section 83. Contracting and Subcontracting Arrangement - The NLVSA shall facilitate and coordinate any contracting and subcontracting arrangement between local and foreign investors, as necessary to boost and improve the animal, animal products and by-products export and local trading performance of the animal industry stakeholders.

Section 84. Export Incentives Programs -The NLVSA shall formulate and implement the guidelines and policies for the registration and certification of bonafide and eligible exporters and facilitate and coordinate applicants and stakeholders that would like to avail the different export incentives programs of the NLVSA, Department of Agriculture and other government agencies that are also providing related services to stimulate international marketing of Philippine-made products.

Section 85. Livestock Business and Industry Strategic Development - The NLVSA shall formulate and regularly update short, medium and long-term livestock business and industry strategic development plan which will serve as guide and roadmap for the development of the different industries in the livestock sector cut across the agribusiness supply chain.

Section 86. Livestock Marketing Information System - The NLVSA shall strengthen the livestock marketing information system through the development of database systems, printed and online publications of marketing information which could be readily accessible to the input suppliers, producers, marketers, processors, industry associations, government and other stakeholders.

Section 87. Socio-economic and Marketing Research - The NLVSA shall strengthen the utilization of social-economic and marketing research to maximize the benefit of the different methodologies and strategies of these interdisciplinary researches for the sustained growth and development and the trade promotion of the country's animal industry's products and services, considering the social and economic factors that contributes to the increase in income, employment generation,

improvement of standard of living and quality of life of livestock farmers, traders, processors, consumers, and in incorporating the socio-economic impact assessment, as an integral part of any project, program and policy implementation by the NLVSA and DA on the different industries/commodities.

Section 88. Marketing Information Governance - The NLVSA shall support the development of marketing information governance to achieve a more transparent, effective exchange and higher coverage of marketing information dissemination in a national scale, to boost the competitive advantage, strategic and supply chain management of local livestock farmers, traders, processors and other relevant stakeholders, considering the different bilateral and multilateral trade agreements in which the country is already a part of and continually complying with national commitments to efficiently compete in the local and in the international market.

Chapter XV

UTILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT FARMS

Section 89. Private Sector Participation - The NLVSA shall maximize the economic potential of its various animal stock and research farms for the benefit of the animal industry through joint government and private sector initiative and participation in the utilization and development thereof.

Section 90. Use of Government Lands for Quasi-Public Purposes - All lands of the government which have been reserved, donated, leased or acquired for animal stock farms or breeding purposes are hereby reclassified or allowed for quasi-public purposes. The Secretary of Agriculture upon the recommendation of the NLVSA in coordination with LGUS shall have the authority to enter into joint venture agreements over such lands with private individuals, corporations and cooperatives with the end in view of maximizing their full potential for livestock production purposes, processing and marketing in achieving the accelerated development of the livestock industry in accordance with the currently approved zoning ordinance.

Chapter XVI

PROHIBITIONS AND PENAL TIES

Section 91. Failure to Report Notifiable Diseases - All animal producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, and farm consultants who fail to report notifiable diseases to the LGU Veterinary Office or to the NLVSA or to the RLVSO immediately within 24 hours by the quickest means possible shall be fined for the first offense, the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) and for succeeding offenses, imprisonment of Ten (10) days.

Section 92. Disobedience, Evasion, Obstructing and Hindering the Director General and his Representatives in the Performance of their Duties - The farm or establishment owner, transport operator, animal facility operator or any person acting on his behalf who disobeys, evades, obstructs or hinders the NLVSA Director General, or any of his enforcement officers or deputized officers to perform his duty shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos

(P20,000.00). A repetition of the same offense shall be punished by imprisonment of Six (6) Months, and cancellation of the registration, permit or license of such person, farm or establishment owner, transport operator whichever is applicable.

Section 93. False Statements - Any person who knowingly makes false declaration or misleading statements in his application for license, certificate of product registration or permit; claim or use of recycled or counterfeit licenses, certificate of product registrations, permits shall upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) and imprisonment of Six (6) months.

Section 94. Failure to Register Vessels, Vehicles and Equipment -Failure of the owner to register vessels, vehicles, and equipment related to transport of animals, animal products and by-products, animal feeds and feedstuffs, veterinary drugs, biologics, devices and other products shall upon conviction be penalized by a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of Sixty (60) days.

Section 95. Failure to Observe NLVSA Procedures - Any person or establishment operator which (a) during the course of regular operation fails to observe NLVSA approved procedures, or (b) during seizure, detention or quarantine fails to seek clearance from NLVSA on the handling, disposal, or destruction and removal of live or dead animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary biological products, drugs and devices, animal feeds and feed ingredients, shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Fifty Thousand pesos (P50,000.00) and imprisonment of Thirty (30) Days.

Section 96. Operating Without a License -Establishment operators/owners found without a valid License to Operate from NLVSA or unlawfully using the registration number of another feed, veterinary biologics, drugs and products establishments shall, upon conviction be penalized by a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and imprisonment of Thirty (30) Days.

Section 97. Failure to Display Registration Certificate - Establishment operators found not displaying the Registration Certificate or displaying fake or expired certificates in the premises of the establishments shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and closure of said establishments for second offense.

Section 98. Dealing with Banned, Substandard, Tampered, Adulterated and Damaged Veterinary Biologics, Drugs and Other Products -Establishment operators engaged in the manufacture, trade, importation, distribution, use or sale of banned, substandard, tampered, adulterated, deficient, unlabeled or mislabeled, unbranded or misbranded, expired, repacked, unregistered or damaged through improper handling of veterinary biologics, drugs and products, devices, mixed feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, premixes, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, any form shall, upon conviction be penalized by a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and imprisonment of Thirty (30) Days.

Section 99. Tampering, Altering, Mutilating, Destroying, Obliterating or Removing Labelling Material Packages and Tags or Labels - Any person or establishment operator found guilty of tampering, altering, mutilating, destroying,

obliterating or removing the whole or any part of the labelling material packages and tags or labels of veterinary biological products, drugs and devices, mixed feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations and other feed products, in any form, shall be fined One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000.00) and punished with imprisonment of Sixty(60) Days.

Section 100. Selling Unlawful Veterinary or Human Drugs -Any person/s using or owner/s of establishments selling unlawful veterinary or human drugs for animals raised for human consumption shall upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00).

Section 101. Refusal to Vaccinate Animals During Outbreaks of Notifiable and Priority Diseases -Refusal of an owner or caretaker to have his animals vaccinated during outbreaks of notifiable and priority diseases, emerging or re-emerging diseases and exotic diseases shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of Ten (10) Days.

Section 102. Other Penalties - Any person, officers of corporation, association, organization or establishment found to be in violation of any of the provisions of this Act, or rules and regulations issued thereafter that are not covered by the foregoing provisions shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Fifty Thousand (P50,000.00) Pesos but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and/or imprisonment of Six (6) Months to One (1) Year, at the discretion of the court.

Section 103. Failure to Comply with Animal Health and Welfare Regulations and Rules -Failure or refusal of any person, owner or caretaker, or handler, operators, officers of corporation, association, organization or establishments to comply with animal health and welfare regulations and standards as provided herein or by the rules hereinafter set by the NLVSA and the local government units shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000.00) and/or imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Section 104. Exceptions under Certain Conditions - Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the Director General to certify for prosecution any first violation of this Act whenever he believes that sufficient compliance and public interest will be adequately served by a suitable written notice of violation and warning.

Section 105. Repeated Violation - Any person found to have committed a second violation of the same offense shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of the said offense.

Chapter XVII

REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION PROCEEDINGS

Section 106. Institution of Complaint - The Director General or upon the instance of any interested party may file a complaint before the hearing committee for the formal suspension or revocation of the license or permit duly issued by the NLVSA for violation of its terms and conditions, or any provisions of the rules and regulations applicable thereto.

Section 107. Alternative Dispute Resolution - To achieve speedy and impartial justice, as provided under RA 9285 known as the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004, the Director General shall issue the guidelines for the implementation of the NLVSA Dispute Resolution.

Section 108. Adjudication - In the event that ADR shall not be resolved to a favorable outcome for the complaint, it shall be raised for adjudication.

Section 109. Hearing Committee -A hearing committee is hereby created to hear any complaint filed under the preceding section. It shall be composed of at least three (3) members. The Director General or in his unavailability, the deputy head of the Center for Animal Products and Services Regulation shall act as Chairman with the Division Chief of the commodity concerned and any other Division Chief of NLVSA, as may be designated by the Director General, as members thereof.

Section 110. Powers and Functions - The Hearing Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

1. To conduct formal investigation and hearings on the cases before it and make recommendations for appropriate actions thereon for approval of the Director General;
2. To administer oaths, issue summons and subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of such books, papers, contracts, records, statement of accounts, agreements, and other documents as may be material to a just determination of the matter under investigation, and to testify in any investigation or hearing conducted in pursuance to this Act.
3. To hold any person in contempt, directly or indirectly, and impose appropriate penalties therefor ranging from One Thousand (P1,000.00) to Ten Thousand (P10,000.00) Pesos.
4. To enjoin any or all acts involving or arising from any case pending before it which, if not restrained forthwith, may cause grave or irreparable damage to any party or the government;
5. The Committee shall use every and all reasonable means to ascertain the facts, issues and applicable laws, rules and jurisprudence in each case speedily and objectively and without regard to technicalities of law or procedure, all in the

interest of due process. In any proceeding before the Committee, the parties may be represented by a legal counsel.

The Committee report when approved by the Director General shall be final and binding on the parties after the lapse of fifteen (15) days from its date of receipt by said parties. Subject to execution pending appeal, any aggrieved party may appeal to the Secretary of Agriculture within the same period.

Chapter XVIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 111. Protection of Sensitive Technical Information -The NLVSA shall take such measures as may be necessary in order to protect trade, industrial and policy information of industry stakeholders, and researchers, when disclosure of such information will injure the competitiveness or viability of their business.

Section 112. Regulatory Fees and Retention of Income:

1. The NLVSA shall have the power to impose charges and fees for the services rendered subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture such as farm accreditations, licensing of establishments, products registration, laboratory tests, Import Permit Fees, Export Permit/commodity clearance fees, Issuance of Landing Permit Fees, Quarantine Inspection Fees, Feed and Veterinary Drugs and Product Production/Inspection Fees and the like which are payable to the NLVSA. Special fee shall be collected from slaughtered animals based on a collection scheme approved by the DA Secretary.
2. All income of the NLVSA shall be deposited in an authorized government depository bank as a special regulatory fund. Any interest earned by such fund shall form part of the retained income. Such fund shall be used primarily for but not limited to the acquisition and expansion of office and laboratory space, human resource development and expansion, purchase of laboratory equipment and motor vehicles, the upgrading of its current facilities and equipment, and maintenance, other operating expenses of the central and regional laboratories, and other activities, services of the agency in the performance of its mandate and support enforcement and monitoring activities.
3. The special regulatory fund shall be allowed to accept grants, donations and other endowments from local and external sources in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.
4. Any contribution, donation, bequest, subsidy or financial aid which may be made to the NLVSA for the implementation of this Act shall constitute as an allowable deduction from the taxable income of the donor/giver and shall be exempted from donor's tax.
5. The retention, use and application of this fund shall not be delayed, amended, altered, or modified, or affected in any way by an order or directive from any executive office, but will be subject only to the general accounting rules and

guidelines by the Commission on Audit (COA). The primary purpose of the fund as herein stated shall prevail over any other purpose that may be pursued by NLVSA on its own initiative or through an order or directive by any higher office. The NLVSA shall submit annually to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Budget & Management a report on how funds were utilized including its accomplishments.

6. There shall also be established a legal fund out of the interest earned from the retained income for use in case of legal actions against the officials, employees of the NLVSA in the course of the exercise of their official functions and duties.

Section 113. Disease Compensation Fund - The disease compensation fund shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. For the LGUs, the requirements shall be taken from their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA).

Section 114. Appointment of Veterinary Attaches - The Department of Agriculture shall strengthen the international animal health, disease surveillance, and information gathering capability by the appointment of veterinary attaches in countries that are major livestock trading partners. In other countries, the NLVSA, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, and in coordination with other government entities concerned, may require Filipino representatives abroad and foreign-based personnel to assist in the collection of data on animal health, disease surveillance, and other related information.

Section 115. Foreign and Local Grants and Aids - The NLVSA, in itself, or in collaboration with other agencies shall receive grants and other funds for its research activities and various programs.

Section 116. Veterinary Education - The NLVSA in coordination with CHED and PVMA shall regularly provide recommendations to make veterinary medical curriculum responsive to the needs and imperatives of the animal industry.

Section 117. Mandatory Review. - The Congress of the Philippines shall undertake a mandatory review of this Act at least once every five (5) years and as often as it may deem necessary, to ensure that veterinary policies and guidelines remain responsive to changing circumstances.

Chapter XIX

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Section 118. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The Secretary of Agriculture, upon recommendation of NLVSA, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the full implementation of this Act, provided, however, that the formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted to both Houses of Congress for information and guidance. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon publication in 2 newspapers of general circulation and submission of three (3) certified copies thereof to the National Administrative Register of the UP Law Center.

Section 119. Creation and Reclassification of Positions - The NLVSA is hereby authorized to create, upgrade, collapse or reclassify existing positions to veterinary and related positions necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Chapter XX

FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 120. Appropriations - The appropriations for the NLVSA included in the budget of the Department of Agriculture under the current General Appropriations Act shall be used to effectively carry out the implementation of this Act. The appropriation may be augmented by the income which the agency is authorized to use under this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 121. Repealing Clause - Any provision of law or regulation inconsistent with this Act shall be considered, modified or repealed accordingly. However, the provisions of Act No. 3639, Republic Act No. 8435, as amended, otherwise known as the "Agricultural Fisheries Modernization Act", Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the "Administrative Code of 1987", Republic Act No. 1556, as amended by Presidential Decree No.7, otherwise known as the "Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act", Act No. 3101, Republic Act No. 1071, Republic Act No. 1578, otherwise known as the "Livestock Promotion Fund", Batas Pambansa Blg. 97, Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998", Republic Act No. 9842, otherwise known as the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2007", and such other laws which are not consistent with this Act shall remain valid and in full force and effect.

Section 122. Separability Clause -If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 123. Effectivity -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED,