

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. **5976**



Introduced by Representative H. Harry L. Roque Jr.

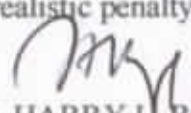
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8485, also known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998," is the primary law punishing cruelty to animals. Section 8 of said Act provides for the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than two (2) years or a fine or not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000) nor more than Five thousand pesos (P5,000) or both at the discretion of the Court, for the violation of the provisions of the Act.

However, the penalty for the violation of the Act is too low to serve as a deterrent. In the United Kingdom, the penalty for the violation of their animal welfare act is £20,000.

The Network for Animals noted that many of those arrested for violation of Republic Act No. 8485 are repeat offenders. They can afford to commit the violation again because the penalties are too low.

Therefore, in order to make the law an effective deterrent to the commission of future violations of the Animal Welfare Act, a higher, more realistic penalty should be imposed.*


H. HARRY L. ROQUE JR.

* This bill was originally filed by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago in the Sixteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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1 AN ACT
2 AMENDING SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, ALSO KNOWN AS
3 "THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998"

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8485, also known as the "Animal
5 Welfare Act of 1998," is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 "Section 8. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Act
7 shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment of not
8 less than [six (6) months] TWO (2) YEARS nor more than [two (2)] FIVE (5)
9 years or a fine not less than [One thousand pesos (P1,000.00)] TWENTY
10 THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) nor more than [(Five thousand pesos
11 (P5,000.00)] FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) or both at the
12 discretion of the Court. If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the
13 officer responsible therefore shall serve the imprisonment when imposed. If
14 the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately deported
15 after service of sentence without any further proceedings."

1 SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
3 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,