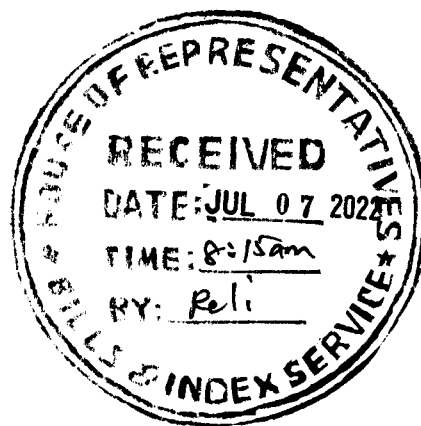


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1510



Introduced by Honorable Florida P. Robes

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to promote the welfare of animals as well as protect their owners and the public from undue injury and illness, including rabies.

There are about 10 million dogs in the Philippines and despite the passage of Republic Act 9482 or the Act Establishing for the Control and Elimination of Human and Animal Rabies (Anti-Rabies Act of 2007), the country remains to have one of the greatest numbers of rabies cases all over the world.

RA 9482 was enacted in 2007 with the aim to control and eliminate human and animal rabies by 2020. However, the Department of Health has reported that there are still around 200 to 300 Filipinos who die of rabies every year.

Concomitant to the issue of rabies as provided in RA 9482 is the mandatory registration of dogs in the city or municipal Agriculture and Veterinary Office. However, the registration of pet dog remains low. Furthermore, a survey conducted by the private dog company, Royal Canin, on responsible pet ownership in the Philippines, showed that pet medicalization remains relatively low with only 20 percent of local pet owners who bring their pets to veterinarians at least once a year while the rest would only bring in their pets when there is already medical emergency.

As a result of the low implementation of pet registration, local governments continue to struggle with the issue of stray dogs which are the main sources of rabies.

A large portion of these stray dogs comes from pet owners who have lost them. Because of lack any system to trace their whereabouts after their pets go astray, their owners fail to find them and they end up as stray dogs who are usually gathered in a pound and are eventually killed through euthanasia when no one claims or adopts them.

There is therefore a need to put in place a system to identify our dogs in order to immediately find them when they go astray.

Microchipping has been endorsed by animal rights groups all over the world as the best way to register and identify a dog or pet.

According to the Philippine Canine Club Inc., microchipping is the process of implanting a small, electronic chip approximately the size of a grain of rice into subcutaneous layer of the skin of a dog located at the back of the neck. It is a permanent identification of a pet that cannot be lost, altered or destroyed. Its implantation is done like any other injection of vaccination and no anesthesia is required. PCCI said the microchip is inert, smooth and biocompatible and there is virtually no chance of the body developing an allergy or trying to reject the microchip.

The microchip is affordable usually costing between P100 to P200 which includes the process of implantation.

This bill likewise includes cats in the registration and microchipping requirements because cats are likewise vulnerable to rabies and are also sources thereof, and they likewise greatly contribute to the problem of stray pets.

The process of microchipping will not only address the problem of stray dogs and cats and help pet owners in locating their lost pets but also help in the thrust of the government to eliminate rabies cases in the country.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "(t)he greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

In this regard, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



FLORIDA P. ROBES

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House Bill No. **1510**

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9482 OR AN ACT ESTABLISHING FOR THE
CONTROL AND ELIMINATION OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL RABIES, PRESCRIBING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR (ANTI-RABIES ACT OF 2007)

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

Section 1. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”, is hereby amended as follows:

“Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

XXXX

d) Dog refers to a common quadruped domestic animal belonging to the order carnivora (male or female), scientifically known as *canis familiaris* WHILE CAT REFERS TO THE DOMESTICATED SMALL CARNIVOROUS MAMMAL (MALE OR FEMALE) BELONGING TO THE FAMILY OF FELIDAE, SCIENTIFICALLY KNOWN AS *FELIS CATUS*.

XXXX

(g) Owner refers to any person keeping, harboring or having charge, care or control of a Dog AND/OR CAT including his/her representative.

(m) Rabies Vaccination of Dogs AND CATS refers to the inoculation of a Dog AND CAT with a Rabies vaccine by a licensed government or private veterinarian

or trained individual under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The services of the said trained individual shall be limited only to Rabies Vaccination Injection in Dogs AND CATS and only during government mass vaccination campaigns

(R). MICRO-CHIPPING REFERS TO THE ACT OF IMPLANTING A MICROCHIP ABOUT THE SIZE OF A GRAIN OF RICE SUBCUTANEOUSLY BETWEEN THE SHOULDER BLADES AT THE BACK OF THE PET'S NECK AS A MEANS OF PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION."

Section 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9482 is hereby amended as follows:

"Section 5. Responsibilities of Pet Owner. All Pet Owners are required to:

xxxx

"(b) Submit their Dogs AND CATS for mandatory registration AND MICROCHIPPING AT THE CITY/MUNICIPAL VETERINARY AND AGRICULTURE OFFICE IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ARE ENCODED:

1. NAME OF THE PET, BREED, SEX, COLOR AND OTHER VITAL INFORMATION;
2. THE OWNER'S NAME, ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS;
3. DATE OF RABIES VACCINATION/EXPIRATION;
4. VACCINES ADMINISTERED; AND
5. NAME AND SIGNATURE OF VETERINARIAN.

IN CASE OF CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OR DEATH OF THE REGISTERED AND MICROCHIPPED DOG AND/OR CAT, THE OWNER SHALL INFORM THE CITY VETERINARY AND AGRICULTURE OFFICE WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS FROM CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OR DEATH, RESPECTIVELY THEREOF."

Section 3. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9482 is hereby amended as follows:

“Sec. 11. Penalties. –

(1) Pet Owners who fail or refuse to have their dog AND/OR CAT registered, MICROCHIPPED AND immunized against Rabies shall be punished by a fine of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) [Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00)];

xxx”

Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees and executive issuance or parts thereof which are contrary to or consistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall thereby remain valid and subsisting.

Section 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,