



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9570

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**Introduced by Representative Shernee A. Tan-Tambut**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to regulate the accommodation of pets in restaurants and other food establishments.

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness amongst them.*" Section 12, Article XIII affirms that "*The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.*" This is further reiterated in Republic Act No. 10611, otherwise known as the "*Food Safety Act of 2013*," emphasizing the food safety regulatory system that ensures a high level of food safety for the public.

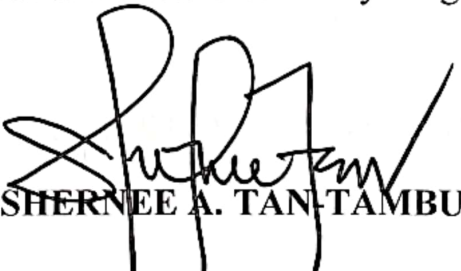
It has been proven that animal allergens such as dander, saliva, urine, fur, feathers, and scales may accumulate in the indoor enclosed environments such as those found in retail food outlets. In the Philippines, common allergies are due to animal or pet allergy reactions triggered by exposure to proteins found in the skin cells, saliva, or urine of animals such as cats, dogs, and rodents. These can cause a range of symptoms in susceptible individuals, including sneezing, coughing, itchy and watery eyes, nasal congestion, and skin rashes. People with animal allergies may experience discomfort and respiratory distress when in close proximity to animals or in environments with high levels of allergens, such as homes with pets. Cat allergen and dog allergen cause potent asthma trigger and if inside enclosed areas, since these are airborne, may endanger individuals with predisposed sickness such as asthma. Rabies are also issues to

contend with and these are causes of death of individuals too. In order to manage such allergies and rabies, exposure to animal should be minimized among others thus the need to prevent such pets inside restaurants and other food establishments.

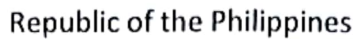
However, for business establishments to completely close their doors to pets is also closing their doors to responsible pet owners who train their pets on basic communications. Some pets, like dogs are the eyes and guides of persons with disabilities; and others are trained and under the control of uniformed law enforcement officers or uniformed employees of private agencies hired by government and private establishments, and these animals cannot be left at a distance from them. Preventing these animals from entering establishments would deprive the rights of pet owners to be protected and assisted by their pets.

To balance the rights of responsible pet owners and business establishments to enjoy the happiness and excitement brought by pets and the power of the State to protect its people from potential harm and airborne diseases associated with pets, there is a need to regulate the bringing of pets in restaurants and other food establishments.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



SHERNEE A. TAN-TAMBUT



Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress  
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9570

**Introduced by Representative Shernee A. Tan-Tambut**

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.**— This Act shall be known as the “*Pets in Food Establishments Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect consumers against potential diseases associated with pets when brought inside restaurants and other food establishments. Towards this end, the State shall craft policies to regulate the bringing of pets in restaurants or any other food establishments such as but not limited to food courts, canteens, or eateries.

SEC. 3. *Accommodation of Pets.* – Pet dogs and cats are allowed in restaurants and other food establishments under the following conditions:

1 (a) Service animals or dogs under the control of uniformed law  
2 enforcement officers or of uniformed employees of private agencies deputized  
3 by the government to perform security functions are allowed entry only at the  
4 outdoor dining area without going through the inside of the restaurant;

5 (b) Operators of zoo, animal show exhibitors, and entities or restaurants  
6 primarily designed to employ pets or animals to attract their patrons shall ensure  
7 the safety and security of their customers by constructing concrete fence or steel  
8 barriers for viewing;

9 (c) Food preparation shall not be allowed at the outdoor dining area;

10 (d) Customer multi-use or reusable utensils such as plates, silverware,  
11 glasses and bowls shall not be stored, displayed or pre-set at the outdoor dining  
12 area;

13 (e) Food and water served or provided to pets shall only be in single-  
14 use disposable containers;

15 (f) Food facility employees are prohibited from having direct contact  
16 with pets while on duty;

17 (g) Pets shall not be allowed on chairs, couches, benches, and tables;

18 (h) Outdoor dining areas shall be maintained meticulously clean; and

19 (i) Pet owners shall provide diapers for pets and should there be  
20 spillage, they shall be responsible to clean the wastes of their pets. An  
21 employee of the establishment who is not assigned to prepare and serve food  
22 shall also immediately clean and sanitize the affected areas.

1 (j) Restaurants, food courts and other food establishments that allow  
2 pets must provide a separate dining area for persons with pets without letting  
3 these pets go through the inside of the restaurant, food court and food  
4 establishment.

5 (k) It shall be the responsibility of the restaurant owners, managers and  
6 employees to see to it that the customer's multi-use or reusable utensils are not  
7 used to feed the pets.

8 SEC. 4. ***Inspection and Monitoring.*** – The local offices of the  
9 Department of Health and those charged with food sanitation and safety  
10 regulations in all cities and municipalities shall conduct inspection and proper  
11 monitoring. Cities and municipalities may pass an ordinance for the imposition  
12 of fines, penalties, or closure of the business establishment for any violation of  
13 Section 3 of this Act.

14 SEC. 5. ***Penalty.*** - Any restaurant owner or personnel or any pet  
15 owner convicted of violation of this act shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment  
16 for a minimum duration of two months and maximum of one year or a fine of  
17 Ten Thousand Pesos or both at the Court's discretion.

18 SEC. 6. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days  
19 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government  
20 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
21 implementation of this Act.

22 SEC. 7. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, executive

1 orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended  
2 accordingly.

3 SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
4 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general  
5 circulation.

6 Approved,