

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10879**

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Having a pet animal or choosing to have a companion animal in one's life is a big responsibility and a lifelong commitment. These pets are dependent on humans for their quality of life. It is important to ensure they are given adequate care and attention and fully understand their well-being before taking that responsibility.

Statistics show that more than seventy percent (70%) of the population in our country have cats, dogs, or both in the household. Many Filipinos seek companionship while all alone, and some turn to their pets for solace and emotional support. Others keep dogs on their property for security against intruders.

The trend of the increasing number of pet ownerships has prompted businesses in the country to adopt a pet-friendly environment in their facilities. Malls, hotels, resorts, and various public venues are now animal-friendly and can accommodate pets accompanied by their owners.

These companion animals, pets, don't just need food and water, they need appropriate shelter and living space, regular veterinarian check-ups, and preventative vet care to ensure they remain happy and healthy. Regular veterinary care is about meeting the health needs of the pet animal. Services that fall within the day-to-day umbrella of veterinary care are: physical examinations, lab testing and other diagnostic testing, and vaccinations.

In view of the foregoing, the establishment of a public veterinary clinic in every city and municipality is hereby proposed in this measure, and funds be appropriated for its construction and maintenance.

SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A PUBLIC VETERINARY CLINIC IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as the "Veterinary Clinic Act of 2024"

SEC. 2. *Establishment* – There shall be established in every city and municipality a public veterinary clinic, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the city or municipal local government unit (LGU), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH).

SEC. 3. *Provision of Space* – The LGU shall provide an adequate and accessible space where the veterinary clinic shall be constructed.

SEC. 4. *Design, Policies, Terms and Conditions* – The LGU shall prepare, in consultation with the DOH and the DPWH, the design of the structure and a hospital development plan aligned with the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan, with due consideration to service facilities. The local government unit shall formulate policies, guidelines, terms and conditions relative to the operation and maintenance of the Veterinary Clinic.

SEC. 5. *Administration* – The local chief executive shall appoint a Chief of the Veterinary Clinic, who shall have the same qualifications, compensation, and powers generally exercised by a Chief of Hospital, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and then qualification requirements for such office. The Chief Veterinary Clinic shall render full-time service, and be responsible for its administration and operation. The local chief executive shall appoint the necessary personnel and staff of the veterinary clinic.

SEC. 6. *Funding* – The city or municipal LGU shall provide the necessary funds for the establishment of their respective public veterinary clinic. The Secretary of the DOH shall include in the Department's subsidy program, support for the capital outlay requirements of the said facility.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with the DPWH, the concerned LGU. and such other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulation, and other issuances or part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause* – If for any reason any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,