

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11087



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Partylist Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In times of calamities, many animals, including beloved pets, are tragically left behind amidst the chaos. While human safety is prioritized, pets—reliant on their owners—are often abandoned. Local government units (LGUs) vary in their preparedness for animal evacuations, leaving many pets at risk.

Stories of animals drowning in shelters or facilities are not uncommon. The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare have been actively advocating for increased awareness and stronger measures to ensure that pets are not abandoned during disasters.

While PAWS and other animal welfare organizations take the initiative in disaster relief operations, providing training, and preparing for pet rescue during emergencies, and although some LGUs are working to establish pet evacuation facilities, these efforts remain inadequate.

The State, in line with its obligation to protect the environment, must institutionalize a program that guides agencies and LGUs in animal emergency response. This bill proposes that the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with other agencies and LGUs, create an interagency emergency response program to ensure the evacuation and protection of animals during calamities. Without such measures, pets remain vulnerable.

It is for the foregoing premises that the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

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**AN ACT CREATING AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR ANIMALS IN
TIMES OF CALAMITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 10631, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF
1998”, AS AMENDED**

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

SECTION 1. A new Section 11 is hereby inserted after the existing Section 10 to read as follows:

“Section 11. Mandatory Animal Welfare Education. - Animal Welfare Education shall be integrated by the Department of Education (DepEd) into the basic education curriculum of all primary and secondary schools, whether public or private.”

SECTION 2. A new Section 12 is hereby inserted after the Section above to read as follows:

“Section 12. Emergency Response Program - The Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Local Government Units (LGUs), and Animal Welfare Organizations, shall create and implement an interagency emergency response program for the rescue and care of animals during calamities, such as floods, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

This program shall include the establishment of animal evacuation centers, temporary shelters, and/or recognized rescue centers, whether public or private, where animals can be placed until they are claimed by their rightful owners or rehomed appropriately.

The Department, through the LGUs, shall also establish an emergency response system to rescue animals that are victims of abuse, cruelty, or maltreatment, and refer them to recognized animal shelters or facilities, whether public or private.”

SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provision of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,