

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1444



Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A balanced and healthful ecology is one of the hallmark state policies that is enshrined in the Constitution, to wit: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature" **[Section 16, Article II, 1987 Constitution]**. This aim of the country to have a balanced and healthful ecology necessarily includes the proper and humane way of taking care of animals.

The Philippines have gone a long way in upholding animal rights, our country have stringent laws against animal abuse and Filipinos are generally very kind to pets. However, this kindness to pets resulted to an overpopulation of stray dogs and cats. News articles about the matter can easily be found. The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), a non-governmental organization, found made a statement that: "Animal homelessness has reached a crisis point in the Philippines. While countless dogs and cats struggle to survive on the streets, hundreds are euthanized every month in municipal pounds."

As such, there is a need to have a mechanism that will resolve the issue on the overpopulation of stray animals, thru the promotion of adoption. The proposed law herein seeks to protect the welfare of every animal, including stray and impounded pets, and ensure that their needs are adequately met. The bill herein also incentivizes the adoption of stray animals.

For the Filipino people, approval of the foregoing bill is earnestly being sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a series of loops and a final stroke.

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**AN ACT PROMOTING THE WELFARE AND ADOPTION OF STRAY AND
IMPOUNDED ANIMALS, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to protect the welfare of every animal, including stray and impounded pets, and ensure that their needs are adequately met. The State recognizes that the responsibility for the welfare of animals is not solely limited to the authorities. Thus, this law aims at promoting responsible pet adoption, providing stray and impounded animal proper protection.

SECTION 2. *Provision for Adoption.*

- a) All impounded and stray animals shall be given the opportunity for adoption.
- b) The local government units (LGU) shall develop and implement programs to promote and facilitate adoption of impounded and stray animals, including but not limited to the establishment of adoption centers, pet fairs, and incentives for adopters.
- c) Adoption of impounded and stray animals shall be considered as a tax incentive for a percentage of the real property tax of the adoptee.

SECTION 3. *Certificate of Adoption by LGUs.* LGUs shall issue certificate of adoption in accordance with the guidelines to be provided by the Bureau of Animal Industry for purposes of the tax incentive benefit stated in Sec. 2(c) of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Provision for Corporations.*

(a) Corporations that promote adoption of impounded and stray animals by their employees may apply for tax deduction on expenses incurred in compliance to this Act.

(b) Corporations are encouraged to establish pet-friendly policies that promote responsible pet ownership, including but not limited to pet insurance, pet care services, and pet-friendly workspaces.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days after its signing into law, the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Finance, shall issue the appropriate implementing rules and regulations for the application of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,