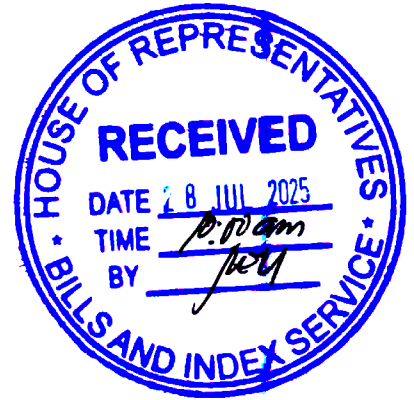




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2356

Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion
3rd Congressional District, Camarines Sur

Animal welfare profoundly impacts public health and community development, yet access to affordable veterinary services remains a significant challenge across the Philippines. Most veterinary care is concentrated in private, urban centers, leaving countless Filipinos, particularly in underserved areas, without vital services. This gap exacerbates poor animal health and public safety, leading to increased zoonotic diseases such as rabies. It also fosters irresponsible pet ownership, contributing to uncontrolled stray populations, and results in economic burdens and animal cruelty. Despite the existing Animal Welfare Act, Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, many Local Government Units lack the necessary veterinary infrastructure for effective implementation.

This "Animal Medical Center Act" directly addresses these systemic deficiencies by mandating the establishment of a public veterinary clinic in every city and municipality. This transformative measure aims to ensure universal access to essential veterinary services, including vaccinations, spay/neuter programs, and basic medical care. It will promote responsible pet ownership, strengthen public health through zoonotic disease control, improve overall animal welfare, and support local agriculture.

By leveraging the capabilities of Local Government Units and the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Animal Industry, this bill establishes a clear framework for the creation, operation, staffing, and sustainable funding of these vital public facilities. Its enactment is a pivotal step towards fostering a healthier

populace, promoting more humane animal treatment, and building more resilient communities across the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is sought.


NELSON S. LEGACION
Representative, 3rd District, Camarines Sur



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC VETERINARY CLINIC IN EVERY CITY
AND MUNICIPALITY IN THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING FOR THEIR
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

*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 "Animal Medical Center Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared a policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of every animal, recognize their intrinsic value, and ensure that their basic health and safety needs are adequately met. Towards this end, the State shall establish and strengthen accessible and affordable animal health and veterinary services in all local government units nationwide, thereby contributing to public health, responsible pet ownership, and a humane society.

SECTION 3. *Establishment.* There shall be established, operated, and continuously maintained a public veterinary clinic in every city and municipality in the country. These clinics shall be under the direct control and supervision of the respective city or municipal local government unit (LGU), in consultation and coordination with the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI).

SECTION 4. *Provision of Facilities and Equipment.* The concerned city or municipal LGU shall provide an adequate, accessible, and suitable lot or space where the public veterinary clinic shall be constructed or established. The clinics shall be equipped with essential machines, equipment, instruments, and supplies necessary for providing comprehensive basic veterinary services.

SECTION 5. *Functions and Services.* The public veterinary clinics shall perform functions and provide services including, but not limited to:

- (a) Providing routine vaccinations (e.g., anti-rabies, distemper) and deworming services;
- (b) Conducting spay and neuter programs for pet population control;
- (c) Offering basic veterinary consultations, diagnoses, and medical treatments for common animal illnesses;
- (d) Performing minor surgical procedures;
- (e) Assisting in the control and prevention of zoonotic diseases in coordination with local health offices;
- (f) Conducting animal welfare awareness and responsible pet ownership campaigns;
- (g) Maintaining a database of registered pets and vaccinated animals within the LGU's jurisdiction;
- (h) Providing basic emergency care for animals; and
- (i) Coordinating with local animal welfare organizations and law enforcement for animal rescue and cruelty cases.

SECTION 6. *Organizational Structure and Staffing.* The local chief executive shall appoint a qualified Chief Veterinarian to head the public veterinary clinic, who shall have the necessary professional qualifications and experience as prescribed by the Civil Service Commission and the Professional Regulation Commission. The Chief Veterinarian shall render full-time service and be responsible for the clinic's overall administration and operation. The local chief executive shall also appoint the necessary veterinary medical, technical, and administrative personnel and staff, proportionate to the needs of the LGU and in accordance with relevant civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 7. *Design, Policies, Terms and Conditions.* The LGU shall prepare the design and layout of the clinic structure in consultation with the DA-BAI. The LGU shall also formulate and implement appropriate local policies, guidelines, fees (if any, for non-indigent cases, and subject to LGU ordinances), and terms and conditions relative to the efficient operation and maintenance of the public veterinary clinic, ensuring accessibility and affordability of services.

SECTION 8. *Funding.* For the initial establishment and construction/renovation of public veterinary clinics, an initial appropriation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act for the ensuing fiscal year following the approval of this Act. This initial funding shall be allocated as a subsidy from the National Government, through the Department of Agriculture, to assist cities and municipalities in meeting the capital outlay requirements for these facilities.

The city or municipal local government unit shall primarily be responsible for providing the necessary funds for the continuous operation, maintenance, and personnel services of their respective public veterinary clinics. Such funds shall be included in their annual regular appropriations. The Department of Agriculture may provide supplementary financial assistance or technical support for specific programs (e.g., mass vaccination, spay/neuter drives) as part of its regular mandate.

SECTION 9. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* The DA-BAI, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and relevant professional organizations, shall establish a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the establishment, operation, and effectiveness of the public veterinary clinics. This system shall ensure compliance with national standards, promote best practices, and facilitate continuous improvement of animal health services nationwide.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the DA-BAI, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and such other relevant agencies and professional organizations, shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* If any portion or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are

inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,