

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3411**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC VETERINARY CLINIC IN EVERY CITY AND
MUNICIPALITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In every community, both humans and animals have lived harmoniously with each other to create a healthy, livable ecosystem. The health and well-being of many Filipino families are interrelated with the health of our pets and other animals in our environment.

According to the World Health Organization, rabies, a common health problem involving animals, is estimated to cause 59,000 human deaths annually in over 150 countries. It is a major burden in Asia, with an estimated 35,172 human deaths per year. Considering the widespread underreporting and uncertain estimates, it is even possible that this number is a gross underestimate of the true burden of the disease.

The Department of Health has recently reported in September 2022 that there have been 222 human rabies cases in the country, with 100% of the cases resulting in death. This is an increase of 17 percent compared to the same period in 2021. Rabies is considered to be a neglected disease, despite being 100% fatal while also being 100% preventable.

Apart from diseases caused to humans, our animal companions also face illnesses and diseases on their own. These diseases can only be addressed if there are accessible veterinary clinics and services available for them. Through regular visits to the veterinarian, many problems can be caught early and can be taken care of before they turn into more severe issues.

In 2019, recognizing the importance of veterinary clinics, the Quezon City Council passed Ordinance No. SP-2854, s. 2019, otherwise known as “An Ordinance Establishing a Public Veterinary Clinic Which Will Provide Affordable Health Care Services for Domesticated Pets/Animals Within the Territorial Jurisdiction of Quezon City”. This proved to be a major innovation, especially in the roll-out of anti-rabies vaccinations and affordable veterinary services to our animal companions. With enough support, the Quezon City Veterinary Clinic has also expanded its services to include an Animal Care and Adoption Center.

This bill seeks to replicate this important legislation and establish a public veterinary clinic in every city and municipality in the country. This measure hopes to promote the health and well-being of our communities while ensuring a harmonious and healthy ecosystem with our animal companions. Through this legislation, we aim to strengthen animal health and veterinary services in all local government units in the country.

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



REP. PM VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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*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
in Every LGU Act*”.

SECTION 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).

SECTION 3. Provision of Space. – The local government unit shall provide
an adequate and accessible lot or space where the veterinary clinic shall be
constructed or established.

SECTION 4. Design, Policies, Terms and Conditions. – The local
government unit shall prepare, in consultation with the DOH and the
Department of Public Works and Highways (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.

SECTION 5. Administration. – The local chief executive shall appoint a Chief
of Veterinary Clinic, who shall have the same qualifications, compensation,
and powers generally exercised by a Chief of a hospital, in accordance with
the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission and the qualification
requirements for such office. The Chief of 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.

SECTION 6. *Funding.* – The city or municipal local government unit 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.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, the DOH shall, in coordination with the DPWH, the concerned LGUs, and such other relevant agencies, prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,