



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4242



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipinos share a strong bond with animals. Pets offer companionship, security, and emotional support, benefiting children, the elderly, and those with conditions like PTSD and autism. Over 9 million Filipino households have pets. This trend is seen in expanding animal welfare movements and related services. However, neglected or unhealthy animals cannot effectively fulfill their roles, highlighting the need for proper care and support systems.

In response to this growing need, the government enacted Republic Act No. 8485, also known as the Animal Welfare Act of 1998. This law establishes guidelines for the humane treatment of animals and outlines penalties for animal abuse. Still, there are not enough animal shelters in the country.

Despite the existence of the Animal Welfare Act, many stray, abandoned, and abused animals in the Philippines continue to lack adequate care and protection, creating risks not only for the animals themselves but also for public safety and health. Stray animals are frequently involved in road accidents, as reported by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), with the issue being particularly severe in rural areas such as Central Luzon and Mindanao. In these regions, both stray animals and roaming livestock contribute to vehicular accidents, especially at night when visibility is low.

Beyond traffic hazards, stray animals also pose serious public health concerns. Without access to proper veterinary care and vaccination, these animals can transmit rabies, parasites, and other zoonotic diseases to humans. The lack of coordinated animal control measures and sufficient public health interventions further exacerbates these risks.

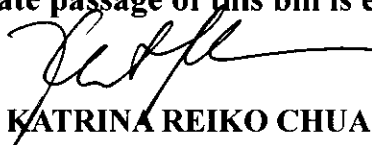
To address these ongoing issues, this measure proposes amending Republic Act No. 8485 to require the establishment of at least one animal shelter in every city and municipality. These shelters will protect rescued animals, provide basic veterinary care, and aid in their rehabilitation. They will also teach the community about responsible pet ownership, adoption, and animal welfare.

The establishment of a nationwide network of animal shelters will:

- Strengthen our Country's Commitment to our ongoing Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2028;
- Enhance public safety by reducing road accidents caused by stray animals;
- Promote public health through controlled vaccination and parasite management;
- Support mental and emotional well-being by ensuring access to healthy and rehabilitated animals for companionship and therapy; and
- Uphold the humane treatment of animals, in line with Filipino cultural values and international best practices.

The immediate passage of this bill is essential. Act now to protect animals, safeguard communities, and uphold the values we share.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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AN ACT

**STRENGTHENING PHILIPPINE ROAD SAFETY ACTION PLAN FOR 2023-2028 BY
ESTABLISHING ANIMAL SHELTERS IN EACH CITY OR MUNICIPALITY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

SECTION 1. A new section shall be added after Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8485,
otherwise known as the “Animal Welfare Act of 1998” as follows:

Section 6. Every city and municipality shall establish and maintain at least one (1)
animal shelter to provide basic care and vaccination services for domesticated animals
owned by residents within the locality.

Each animal shelter shall have a licensed veterinarian assigned to conduct animal care
and health consultations no less than twice (2) per week.

For purposes of this Act, basic care shall include, but not be limited to: nutritional
assessment, food intake consultation, emergency medical care, pain management,
parasite control, population well-being monitoring, and disease response.

Vaccination services shall include, but not be limited to: anti-rabies immunization and
deworming programs.

The Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), in
coordination with local government units (LGUs), shall formulate the implementing
rules and regulations necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. All succeeding sections shall be renumbered accordingly.

1 **SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days after
2 the approval of this Act, the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Bureau of Animal
3 Industry (BAI), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in coordination
4 with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the Department of Health (DOH) shall prepare
5 and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

6 **SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is
7 held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

8 **SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations
9 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

10 **SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

12 *Approved,*