

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 5752

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT

MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS (ABTCs) IN ALL NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rabies is a fatal viral disease transmitted to human through the bite of an infected animal. Despite the enactment of Republic Act No 9482, otherwise known as the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007” rabies continues to pose a significant public health concern in the Philippines. Said law mandates the annual vaccination of dogs and the provision of free routine immunization or pre-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to school children aged five (5) to fourteen (14) years in areas with high incidence. Of rabies infection.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), rabies cases in the Philippines rose to 260, from January to September 20, 2025.¹

The DOH further reported that ninety percent (95%) of infections were attributed to unvaccinated animals or those with unknown vaccination status.

As of August 2021, there are approximately seven hundred fifty (750) Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTCs) operating across the country, with only the provinces of Tawi-Tawi and Guimaras having none.²

¹ DOH pushes for responsible pet ownership as rabies cases in PH hit 260”. Available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1259841#:~:text=MANILA%20%E2%80%93%20Rabies%20cases%20in%20the,21%2C%202025%203:26%20pm>

²<https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/full/10.1079/9781800622975.0006#:~:text=Components%20of%20the%20control%20programme,same%20service%20for%20a%20fee.>

Each ABTC is intended to serve a population of one hundred thousand (100,000). However, as of 2021, only thirty-four (34) provinces have attained the target ratio of one (1) ABTC per 100, 000 population, while sixty-one (61) provinces have ten (10) or fewer ABTCs.

This proposed legislation seeks to address this inadequacy by mandating the establishment of Animal Bite Treatment Centers all national and local government hospitals. Furthermore, it seeks to ensure the provision of necessary funding for the establishment, maintenance, adequate staffing and supply requirements of such centers.

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


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.



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

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CENTERS (ABTCs) IN ALL NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS,
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Animal Bite Treatment Act*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

The State likewise recognizes that rabies poses a serious public health concern and that there is a dire need to establish Animal Bite Treatment Centers nationwide to help prevent and control its spread.

SECTION 3. *Establishment and Maintenance of Animal Bite Treatment Centers.* – All national and local government hospitals are hereby mandated to establish Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTC) within their respective facilities. Each ABTC shall be:

- Adequately staffed with qualified medical practitioners, including licensed physicians, registered nurses who are trained and certified to administer animal bite treatment and conduct rabies prophylaxis, in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Department of Health (DOH);

- Properly equipped with medical supplies, equipment, and facilities for the safe storage and handling of anti-rabies vaccines and rabies immunoglobulin; and
- Maintained properly to ensure that it is safe and conducive for all patients.

SECTION 4. *Services to be Provided.* – Each ABTC shall provide the following services:

- a) Accurate risk assessment for rabies exposure, in adherence to DOH guidelines;
- b) Timely administration of anti-rabies vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin as prescribed for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP);
- c) Administration of anti-tetanus prophylaxis, when indicated;
- d) Counseling on rabies prevention, responsible pet ownership, and the critical importance of completing the full course of treatment;
- e) Referral for surgical and other specialized treatments, when necessary; and
- f) Accurate and timely recording and reporting of animal bite cases to the proper authorities for surveillance, epidemiological monitoring and national rabies control programming,

SECTION 5. *Funding.* – The initial funding for the establishment of ABTCs in national government hospitals shall be included in the General Appropriations Fund under the budget of the Department of Health.

For local government hospitals, the necessary funding shall be sourced from the annual budget of the respective local government units.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and other concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,