

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6284



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recently, earthquakes and widespread flooding in Cebu and other major areas across the country have forced thousands of Filipinos to flee their homes. Sadly, many were unable to bring their animals, pets, livestock, and working animals, which were left behind without food, water, or shelter. These animals were stranded in dangerous conditions, exposed to rising waters, debris, and collapsed structures, often still tethered and unable to escape.

Since then, successive calamities such as typhoons, landslides, and further flooding have repeatedly revealed the same gaps in disaster response. Farmers and families across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao have lost livestock and working animals to strong currents, destructive winds, and inaccessible evacuation routes. These losses not only inflict immense suffering on the animals but also devastate the livelihoods of Filipinos who rely on them for food production, transport, and income.

While some groups and organizations attempted rescues, local governments may often need to halt operations once residents are evacuated, to protect volunteers from dangerous conditions; for example, during the Taal Volcano eruption, authorities suspended all rescue efforts due to the risks posed to those remaining in the area.

These recurring calamities underscore the urgent need to adjust our policies. At present, there are no clear guidelines for rescuing and protecting livestock and working animals during disasters, even though many Filipinos depend on them for livelihood and survival. Ensuring their rescue will help reduce the economic and social impacts of calamities. Thus, government agencies must be mandated to establish protocols for their evacuation and care.

This proposed measure operationalizes the principles of R.A. 10631, which amended the Animal Welfare Act, by extending its prohibitions against cruelty, neglect, and abandonment into disaster contexts. By mandating the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), in coordination

with the Department of Agriculture and local government units, to establish protocols for animal rescue, the bill ensures that humane treatment and livelihood protection are integrated into disaster risk reduction and management.

Through this legislation, we aim to safeguard livelihoods, uphold humane treatment of animals, and strengthen disaster response. For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS

Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO PROMULGATE GUIDELINES FOR THE
RESCUE OF LIVESTOCK AND WORKING ANIMALS IN CASES OF
CALAMITY

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 “Animal Rescue in Calamities Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. The State also recognizes the ownership of livestock and working animals as indispensable to the business of several Filipinos.

Consistent with Republic Act No. 8485, as amended by Republic Act No. 10631, which prohibits cruelty, neglect, and abandonment of animals, the State shall ensure that these protections are operationalized during calamities. Accordingly, the government shall establish clear guidelines for the rescue, evacuation, and temporary shelter of livestock and working animals in disaster situations. By safeguarding these animals, the government affirms its duty to protect both human welfare and the economic survival of communities that depend on them.

Through this policy, the State affirms its duty to safeguard both human welfare and the economic survival of communities, while exercising humane treatment of animals in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a) "*Livestock*" refers to domesticated animals raised in an agricultural setting to produce labor and commodities such as, but not limited to, meat, eggs, fur, or leather.
- b) "*Working animal*" refers to an animal, usually domesticated, that is kept by humans and trained to perform tasks.
- c) "*Calamity*" refers to a disastrous event marked by great loss and lasting distress and/or suffering.

SECTION 4. Scope. – This Act shall apply to all livestock and working animals, whether publicly or privately owned.

SECTION 5. Roles and Responsibilities. – The Committee on Animal Welfare attached to the Department of Agriculture, as mandated by Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the Animal Welfare Act, as amended by Republic Act No. 10631, in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), shall identify, prepare, and provide policy guidance and technical assistance for the rescue, evacuation, and temporary shelter of livestock and working animals in cases of calamity.

In line with Section 6 and Section 7 of R.A. 10631, which prohibit neglect and abandonment of animals, this Act operationalizes such protections by requiring owners of livestock and working animals to register them with their respective barangays. Barangays shall maintain local records, in coordination with the Bureau of Animal Industry and municipal agricultural offices, to facilitate rescue and evacuation planning.

In the event of a calamity, barangays and animal owners shall take all reasonable measures to secure the safety of animals within a reasonable period following the evacuation of residents, subject to the paramount consideration of human safety. Where such measures are not possible due to risks to human life, the matter shall be referred to the NDRRMC for appropriate action, ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to minimize economic loss to animal owners.

SECTION 6. Socio-civic organizations and the Private Sector. – This Act shall also empower the private sector in engaging and partnering with the government in promulgating policy measures with regard to the rescue of livestock and working animals in cases of calamity. Non-governmental organizations, civic organizations, the academe, people's organizations, and the like shall be tapped by the government in providing assistance in the promulgation and enforcement of such guidelines.

Such participation shall be consistent with the humane treatment standards and anti-cruelty provisions under R.A. 10631, thereby ensuring that rescue operations uphold animal welfare principles while complementing disaster response efforts.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the NDRRMC, the Bureau of Animal Industry, and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity. These rules shall harmonize disaster rescue protocols with the protections against cruelty, neglect, and abandonment provided under R.A. 10631.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,