



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6750



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE VETERINARY HOSPITAL, DEFINING ITS PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The protection and promotion of animal health and welfare are vital to public health, agricultural development, and environmental balance. Republic Act No. 8485, as amended by Republic Act No. 10631, otherwise known as the Animal Welfare Act of 1998, mandates the State to regulate establishments involved in the treatment and care of animals, including veterinary clinics and hospitals, to ensure ethical and science-based standards in animal management.

However, despite the existence of numerous private veterinary facilities, there remains no dedicated national veterinary hospital that can provide advanced animal medical care, conduct veterinary research, and respond to large-scale disease outbreaks. Recent years have underscored this urgent need: zoonotic diseases such as African Swine Fever, avian influenza, and rabies have severely impacted local industries and communities, while the COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the interconnectedness of human and animal health under the One Health approach advocated by the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health. The growing threats of animal-borne diseases and the lack of a coordinated response mechanism make the establishment of a national veterinary hospital an urgent priority.

This measure, then, aims to strengthen animal health systems, improve access to quality veterinary care nationwide, support scientific research on zoonotic and emerging diseases, and ultimately safeguard communities, livelihoods, and public health.

This proposed bill mandates the strengthening of the protection and promotion of the health and welfare of all animals through the efficient and effective provision of globally-competitive, cost-effective, compassionate, and accessible veterinary services and facilities by establishing the Philippine Veterinary Hospital. The hospital is mandated to ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of quality animal healthcare by being the primary medical facility for hospitalization and medical care of animals; providing comprehensive veterinary services; conducting scientific research and awareness campaigns; training veterinarians, animal care and service workers, as well as veterinary schools and institutions; and, encouraging the establishment of veterinary hospitals and clinics in all levels of local government units.

To emphasize, the hospital is directed to engage in scientific research on the prevention and treatment of animal diseases, the prevention of transmission of animal diseases to people, and other related activities. It is likewise directed to assist universities, hospitals, and research institutions in their studies of animal and zoonotic diseases to encourage advanced training on matters of or affecting animal health and related fields and to support educational programs of value to general animal health and welfare.

This measure was also filed during the 19th Congress.

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



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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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 “*Philippine Veterinary Hospital Act.*”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the health and welfare of all animals in the Philippines through the efficient and effective provision of globally-competitive, cost-effective, compassionate, and accessible veterinary services and facilities.

Section 3. *Creation of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital.* – It is hereby created a corporate body to be known as the Philippine Veterinary Hospital which shall be under the supervision and control of the Bureau of Animal Industry in coordination with the Department of Health.

Section 4. *Purposes, Objectives, and Functions of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital.* – To ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of quality animal healthcare, the Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall:

- a. Construct, establish, operate, and maintain a veterinary hospital for the welfare of all animals, which shall be the primary medical facility for the hospitalization and medical care of animals;
- b. Provide comprehensive veterinary services, including but not limited to the prevention, control, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases affecting the health of domestic and wild animals and the care and treatment of injured animals;
- c. Promote, encourage, and engage in scientific research on the prevention and treatment of animal diseases, the prevention of transmission of animal diseases to people, and relative activities, including but not limited to, sponsorship and conduct of relevant congresses, conventions, seminars, and conferences;
- d. Stimulate and/or underwrite the above-mentioned scientific researches, and gather, compile, and publish the findings of such researches for public dissemination;
- e. Facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, control, diagnosis, and treatment of animal diseases to arouse, enhance, and develop public interest on animal health and welfare consciousness;
- f. Encourage and/or undertake the training of veterinarians and animal care and service workers on the practical and scientific conduct and implementation of veterinary services and related activities;
- g. Assist universities, hospitals, and research institutions in their studies

of animal and zoonotic diseases to encourage advanced training on matters of or affecting animal health and related fields and to support educational programs of value to general animal health and welfare; and,

- h. Encourage the formation of other veterinary hospitals and clinics on the national, provincial, city, municipal, or barangay level and coordinate their various efforts and activities for the purpose of achieving a more effective and programmatic approach on the common problems relative to the objectives herein enumerated.

Section 5. Powers and Functions of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital.

– For the attainment and/or furtherance of the above purposes and objectives, the Philippine Veterinary Hospital, as a body corporate, acting through its Board of Trustees, shall have all the powers pertaining to a juridical person, and is therefore authorized, among other things to:

- a. Acquire and hold in any property of whatever nature or description, and dispose of such property under any mode of encumbrance or conveyance;
- b. Contract and be contracted with;
- c. Mortgage, lease, sell, transfer, convey, or otherwise dispose of its properties;
- d. Solicit and receive donations, endowments, and funds in the form of contributions, whether in cash or in kind, from both the public and private sectors;
- e. Open such accounts in banks and other financial institutions and disburse such funds or invest the same as the Board may direct to accomplish or advance the purposes or interest of the Philippine

Veterinary Hospital;

- f. Invite foreign veterinarians and similar experts in the various medical fields to train the personnel or trainees or residents of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital;
- g. Send the personnel of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital to research institutes, medical institutes, or universities for advance training or observation and attend international or regional conventions, conferences, congresses, seminars as the Board may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes and objectives of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital;
- h. Adopt a set of by-laws, rules, and regulations not inconsistent with law and the provisions hereof to govern the administration and operation of the affairs of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital; and,
- i. Do all such other acts and things as are or may be necessary or incidental for the accomplishment of the purposes and objectives of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital.

Section 6. *Board of Trustees.* – The Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, hereafter referred to as the Board, composed of seven (7) members, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines. The Director of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall be appointed by the Board.

The six appointive members of the Board shall serve without compensation for a period of three (3) years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Philippines, and the appointee shall serve for the unexpired term. The Board of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall elect a Chairman from

among themselves, who shall be the presiding officer of the Board.

The Director of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Board. The Director shall act as the chief executive officer of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital, with authority, among others, to appoint, remove, and fix the compensation of the personnel thereof, subject to the approval of the Board.

Four (4) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum to transact business and any decision of such four (4) members on any matter duly presented to the Board shall constitute a valid and binding act of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital.

Section 7. *Government Contributions.* – The Government shall constitute the necessary land, building, equipment, and facilities to the Philippine Veterinary Hospital, and shall pay such obligations for real, personal, and mixed properties arising from such undertaking and under a deferred payment arrangement within five (5) years, at a preferred rate of interest.

Section 8. *Property of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital.* – The property of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall consist of such real, personal, mixed, and other type of property, now owned or reserve for, or may hereafter be given, donated, acquired, transferred, or conveyed to the Philippine Veterinary Hospital by the Philippine Government, its branches and instrumentalities, any foreign government, as well as by trust, foundations, corporations, or persons, aliens or domestic, in order to carry out its purposes and objectives as set forth herein.

Section 9. *Tax Exemptions, etc.* – All donations, contributions, or

endowments which may be made by entities or persons to the Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall be exempt from income and donor's taxes, and the same shall be further deductible in full for purposes of computing the maximum amount deductible under Section 30 (h) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

The Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall be exempt from the payment of all taxes, charges, and fees imposed by the Government or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof for a period of ten (10) years.

All income earned by foreign doctors who shall use the facilities of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall be exempt for a period of ten (10) years from the date of effectivity hereof.

Section 10. *Assistance from Government Offices, etc.* – The Philippine Veterinary Hospital may call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, for such assistance as it may need in the pursuit of its purposes and objectives.

All individuals, entities, and institutions are hereby enjoined to render full assistance and corporation to the Philippine Veterinary Hospital in the accomplishment of its objectives and activities.

Section 11. *Appropriations.* – An amount of one hundred million pesos (Php 100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the establishment and initial operations of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital. Subsequently, the Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this

Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, specifically the Bureau of Animal Industry, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 13. *Auditing.* – The books and accounts of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall be subject to periodic auditing by the Chairman of the Commission on Audit, or his duly authorized representative.

Section 14. *Annual Report.* – The Philippine Veterinary Hospital shall render to the President of the Philippines an annual report of its activities and recommendations.

Section 15. *Effect of Dissolution of the Philippine Veterinary Hospital.*
– If, for any reason, the Philippine Veterinary Hospital is dissolved, its properties remaining at the time of such dissolution shall revert to the Philippine Government for disposition in accordance with the law.

Section 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,