



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6946



Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a public veterinary clinic in every city and municipality, and appropriate funds therefor.

Animals play an essential role in Philippine society, contributing to environmental balance, agricultural productivity, public health, and the emotional well-being of Filipino families. The Philippines is also a nation of pet owners, with the Social Weather Stations (SWS) First Quarter 2023 Survey showing that 64% of Filipino households have pets at home, reflecting a national shift toward responsible pet ownership and the recognition of animals as companions and members of the household. Despite this growing reliance on animals, whether as pets, livestock, working animals, or strays, access to veterinary healthcare remains limited across many regions. Veterinary clinics are often scarce, privately owned, and unaffordable for many Filipinos, leaving communities vulnerable to preventable diseases, outbreaks, and inadequate animal care. This lack of access undermines national efforts to control zoonotic diseases, safeguard livestock-dependent livelihoods, regulate animal populations humanely, and protect the public from emerging and existing animal health threats.

Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and advance the people's right to a balanced and healthful ecology, which includes ensuring humane and scientifically grounded animal health systems. Existing laws, such as Republic Act No. 8485, as amended by Republic Act No. 10631, otherwise known as "*The Animal Welfare Act of 1998*," Republic Act No.

9482, otherwise known as the “*Anti-Rabies Act of 2007*,” further affirm the State’s responsibility to prevent cruelty to animals and curb zoonotic disease transmission. In line with these constitutional and statutory mandates, this bill seeks to establish a public veterinary clinic in every city and municipality in the Philippines to ensure that veterinary services are accessible, affordable, community-based, and aligned with national animal health and welfare standards.

The proposed measure strengthens the capacity of local government units by mandating the creation of a fully functional veterinary clinic under LGU supervision, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Animal Industry (DA–BAI) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Each clinic will offer essential services, including veterinary consultation and treatment, vaccination such as anti-rabies immunization, spay/neuter procedures to support humane population control, emergency and first-aid care for animals, disease surveillance and reporting, issuance of veterinary health certificates, public education campaigns on responsible pet ownership, and rescue and care for animals affected by disasters.

The bill also requires the appointment of a full-time Chief Veterinarian and adequate support personnel to ensure professional oversight and uninterrupted service delivery. To promote uniformity and accountability, the DA–BAI, in coordination with the DILG, will issue national standards on clinic design, staffing, equipment, and service protocols, which LGUs must adopt. LGUs are likewise mandated to allocate funds for operations, implement local animal welfare programs, and coordinate with veterinary associations, academic institutions, and civil society to expand service reach.

By institutionalizing these clinics, the bill addresses longstanding gaps in veterinary access, strengthens local and national disease-prevention systems, supports agricultural communities, and promotes humane and ethical animal care. It provides a comprehensive, community-centered framework for improving animal health outcomes and protecting public welfare.

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



CARLOS ANDES LORIA



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AN ACT

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

*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 "*Public
Veterinary Clinic Act.*"

SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** - The State recognizes the vital role of
animals, whether pets, livestock, working animals, or strays, in human life,
including emotional support, physical labor and nutrition, and their health and
welfare is necessary in safeguarding public health, protecting the environment,
supporting agriculture, and promoting community well-being. Towards this end,
the State shall ensure that accessible, affordable, and high-quality veterinary
services are available in all local government units to strengthen programs on

1 responsible pet ownership, disease prevention, and humane treatment of animals
2 and support local animal health systems to protect both communities and the
3 national interest.

4 **SEC. 3. *Establishment of Public Veterinary Clinics.*** - At least one public
5 veterinary clinic, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the
6 concerned local government unit (LGU), is established in every city and
7 municipality and shall provide the following essential services:

- 8 a. Veterinary consultation, treatment, and minor procedures;
- 9 b. Vaccination, including anti-rabies;
- 10 c. Spay/neuter (kapon) and animal population-control programs;
- 11 d. Emergency and first-aid care for animals;
- 12 e. Animal disease surveillance and reporting;
- 13 f. Issuance of veterinary health certificates;
- 14 g. Public education on animal welfare and responsible pet ownership;
- 15 h. Rescue and care for animals affected by disasters.

16 Mobile veterinary outreach services may be conducted in remote or high-
17 need areas.

18 **SEC. 4. *Administration and Staffing.*** - The local chief executive shall
19 appoint a licensed and qualified Chief Veterinarian, who shall render full-time
20 service and shall be responsible for the overall administration, supervision, and
21 operation of the clinic. The Chief Veterinarian, considered as a city or municipal
22 official, must possess the qualifications prescribed by the Civil Service

Commission (CSC) and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and shall ensure compliance with national standards on veterinary practice and animal welfare.

The Chief Veterinarian shall be assisted by at least one (1) veterinary technician and sufficient support staff, including administrative and auxiliary personnel, as may be determined by the LGU based on service needs.

LGUs may appoint additional veterinary medical, technical, and administrative personnel as necessary, subject to civil service laws, rules, and regulations, and the standard and guidelines to be issued under Section 5 of this Act. They shall likewise ensure that the clinics are adequately equipped with the necessary medical instruments, supplies, facilities, and logistical support to maintain high-quality and sustainable operations.

SEC. 5. *Standards and Guidelines.* - The Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Animals (DA-BAI) Industry shall, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), formulate and issue the minimum standards for clinic design, staffing, equipment, and service delivery, which shall be adopted by the LGUs in establishing and operating the clinics.

SEC. 6. *Responsibilities of Local Government Units.* - LGUs shall:

- a. Establish, operate, and maintain the public veterinary clinic;
- b. Hire qualified personnel and provide necessary facilities and supplies;
- c. Allocate funds for operations, including emergency requirements;

1 d. Formulate local policies and fee schedules, when applicable;

2 e. Implement local animal health and welfare programs, including
3 vaccination and population control.

4 LGUs may partner with veterinary associations, state universities and
5 colleges, non-government organizations, or private entities to enhance the
6 services of the public veterinary clinics.

7 **SEC. 7. Compliance.** - All public veterinary clinics established under this
8 Act shall strictly comply with Republic Act (RA) No. 8485, as amended by
9 Republic Act No. 10631, otherwise known as "*The Animal Welfare Act of 1998*,"
10 RA 9482, otherwise known as the "*Anti-Rabies Act of 2007*," and all other
11 applicable national and local laws, rules, and regulations relating to animal
12 health, welfare and public health. Clinics shall ensure that all veterinary
13 procedures, facility operations, and animal-handling practices adhere to
14 established standards of humane treatment, disease prevention, and professional
15 ethics.

16 The DA-BAI shall, in coordination with the DILG and Department of
17 Health (DOH), oversee compliance, conduct periodic inspections, and issue
18 necessary directives to maintain high standards of animal welfare and public
19 health.

20 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the initial
21 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the available budget of the
22 city or municipality. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the

1 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of
2 the city or municipality.

3 SEC. 9. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within ninety (90) days
4 from effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government
5 and the Director of DA-BAI shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Health
6 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation
7 of this Act.

8 SEC. 10. ***Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act is declared
9 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
10 remain in full force and effect.

11 SEC. 11. ***Repealing Clause.*** – Sections 443 (b) and 454 (b) of RA 7160, as
12 amended, otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*,” are
13 amended to include the Chief Veterinarian as a municipal and city official,
14 respectively. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts
15 hereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified
16 accordingly.

17 SEC. 12. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

19 Approved,
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