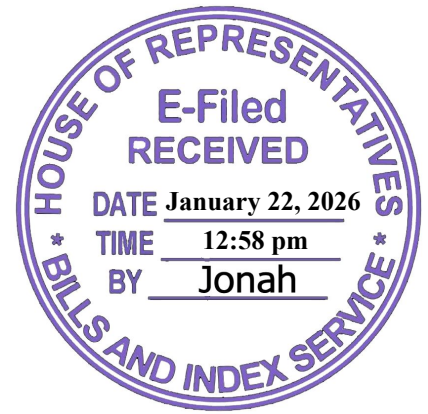


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7238



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every year, hundreds of thousands of animals are born into suffering on Philippine streets, an escalating crisis of neglect and cruelty that our existing laws have failed to contain.

Estimates indicate that between 100,000 to 500,000 stray dogs and cats are added to Philippine streets every year, resulting in a nationwide population now believed to reach 12 to 13 million stray animals. Deprived of adequate food, shelter, and veterinary care, these animals are routinely exposed to disease, cruelty, neglect, and premature death. Animal welfare organizations note that the situation is particularly severe among dogs, while the uncontrolled reproduction of cats, where a single unspayed female can produce dozens of offspring within a year, continues to intensify the crisis and overwhelm existing rescue and control efforts.¹

Despite the continued existence of the Animal Welfare Act, incidents of animal cruelty persist with alarming regularity, underscoring serious gaps in enforcement and local implementation. Recent incidents have underscored the persistence and gravity of animal cruelty in the country. A content creator deliberately threw a cat into a river to generate viral online content, exposing how animals are exploited for attention and profit. Another widely condemned case involved the tragic killing of Killua, a three-year-old golden retriever in Camarines Sur, who was shot by a barangay tanod allegedly for chasing him, despite CCTV footage casting serious doubt on this claim.²

Public outrage also followed an incident in Tagaytay where a self-described “pet-friendly” restaurant barred an Aspin named Yoda from entry, highlighting discriminatory attitudes toward local dog breeds and the lack of clear standards for

¹ Polias, P. (08 May 2025). Their Lives Matter Too: The Unseen Reality of Stray Cats and Dogs in the Philippines. Retrieved from: <https://www.caraphil.org/their-lives-matter-too-the-unseen-reality-of-stray-cats-and-dogs-in-the-philippines/>

² Sumauang, I. (2024). Pet Peeve: Issues of Animal Cruelty and Discrimination in the Philippines. Retrieved from: <https://explained.ph/pet-peeve-issues-of-animal-cruelty-and-discrimination-in-the-philippines/>

animal-inclusive spaces. In a separate and deeply disturbing case, a video from La Trinidad, Benguet surfaced showing individuals slaughtering dogs to be served as food during drinking sessions.³ In Negros Occidental, a dog was deliberately used as a makeshift dartboard and repeatedly shot with improvised arrows, causing extreme suffering. In another widely reported incident, a foreign national in Makati brutally kicked and killed a community cat⁴, drawing public outrage and underscoring the vulnerability of animals in urban settings. Taken together, these incidents demonstrate that, despite existing laws, acts of cruelty, neglect, and discrimination against animals remain prevalent and demand stronger, more effective legal and institutional responses.

This bill seeks to address these gaps by establishing a comprehensive and enforceable animal welfare framework. It sets clear minimum standards for humane treatment, including adequate food and water, proper shelter, veterinary medical care, humane transport, and opportunities for animals to express natural behaviors. The measure strengthens rescue and enforcement mechanisms by authorizing the removal of animals from inhumane conditions, institutionalizing animal protection orders, protecting enforcers and concerned citizens from Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP), and imposing graduated and deterrent penalties for acts of cruelty, abandonment, illegal dog meat trading, and aggravated or repeat offenses.

To ensure effective and sustained implementation, particularly at the grassroots level, the bill mandates the creation of a Barangay Animal Welfare Unit (BAWU) in every barangay to oversee animal health services, vaccination, spay and neuter programs, animal welfare education, and stray population control in coordination with veterinary authorities. It further provides for an interagency emergency response system for animals during disasters and abuse cases, establishes an Animal Welfare Fund to support enforcement and programs, and mandates the integration of animal welfare education and public awareness campaigns to promote responsible pet ownership and humane values nationwide.

This bill draws inspiration from Senate Bill No. 1918, filed by this Representation in the 18th Congress. In addition to said Senate measure, key provisions have also been adopted from related proposals introduced in the 20th Congress by Representatives Salvador Pleyto, Sr., and Nobert Nazal.

The immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



LEILA M. DE LIMA

³ *Id.*

⁴ Zalzarriaga, J. (13 March 2025). Fighting animal cruelty and demanding accountability. Retrieved from: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/03/13/2427875/fighting-animal-cruelty-and-demanding-accountability>

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Revised
2 Animal Welfare Act of 2026.”
3

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to protect and
5 promote the welfare of all animals, by establishing a system of management and
6 regulation to ensure humane treatment in all aspects of the keeping, maintaining,
7 handling, transporting, breeding, training, treating, and use of animals. Good animal
8 welfare involves adherence to the five basic freedoms of animals, namely:
9

- 10 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst;
- 11 2. Freedom from discomfort;
- 12 3. Freedom from pain, injury, or disease;
- 13 4. Freedom to express normal behavior; and
- 14 5. Freedom from fear and distress.
- 15

16 SEC. 3. *Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to all programs, activities, and
17 undertakings of any person, group, association, partnership, corporation, cooperative,
18 or entity, including but not limited to animal producer, small-hold farmer, private entity,
19 or any government agency or instrumentality, that:
20

- 21 a) handles, breeds, trains, keeps, raises, cares for, transports, exhibits, displays,
22 uses, and in any other manner interacts with any animals, whether as pets,
23 livestock, wildlife, or those trained or used for education, entertainment, or
24 show;
- 25 b) owns, operates, or maintains any facility that interacts with animals; or
- 26 c) interacts with, or encounters stray animals.
- 27
- 28

1
2 SEC. 4. *Objectives.* The objectives of this Act are:
3

- 4 a) To promote and uplift animal welfare by providing policies and standards in the
5 establishment and operation of animal facilities and transportation;
6 b) To establish guidelines and standards in the use, treatment, breeding,
7 maintenance, keeping, and training of all animals;
8 c) To protect and ensure animal health through the maintenance of adequate,
9 clean, and sanitary facilities used in the keeping, breeding, treatment, and
10 training of animals;
11 d) To uphold responsible pet ownership through education and information
12 dissemination;
13 e) To regulate the operation and maintenance of animal facilities or any
14 establishment where animals are kept for whatever reason or purpose;
15 f) To formulate rules and regulations that will ensure the promotion of animal
16 welfare in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of any pet shop,
17 kennel, pound, shelter, slaughterhouses, veterinary clinic, veterinary hospital,
18 stockyard, corral, stud farm, stock farm, or zoo for the breeding, raising,
19 treatment, sale or trading, or training of animals;
20 g) To establish inter-agency, multi-sectoral and local government cooperation for
21 the promotion and protection of animal welfare;
22 h) To create and establish an organizational structure that will effectively
23 implement the provisions of this Act and all laws relevant to it; and
24 i) To promote public awareness and concern for caring for animals and its
25 welfare.
26

27 SEC. 5. *Principles of Animal Welfare.* –
28

- 29 a) Decisions regarding animal care, use, and welfare shall be made by balancing
30 scientific knowledge and professional judgment, as well as consideration of
31 ethical and societal values;
32 b) Protection of animal habitat is an animal welfare consideration;
33 c) Animals must be provided humane care and treatment, and an animal habitat
34 appropriate to their species-typical biology and behavior;
35 d) Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize fear, pain, stress, and
36 suffering;
37 e) Consider the five basic freedoms of animals:
38 1. Freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition;
39 2. Freedom from physical discomfort and pain;
40 3. Freedom from injury and disease;
41 4. Freedom to conform to essential behavioral patterns; and
42 5. Freedom from fear and distress.
43 f) Animals shall be treated with respect and dignity throughout their lives and,
44 when necessary, provided a humane death; and
45 g) Conservation and management of animal populations should be humane,
46 socially responsible, and scientifically prudent.
47
48
49
50

1
2 SEC. 6. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:
3

4 (a) *Animal* refers to domesticated vertebrate and invertebrate species under the
5 control or custody of humans, which may be food-producing, companion, labor,
6 aquatic, or laboratory, including birds;
7

8 (b) *Animal Facility* refers to any facility, structure, or premises used for the
9 purpose of keeping, caring, breeding, rearing, holding, gaming, training, trading,
10 treating, or exhibiting animals, including but not limited to farms, zoos, aviaries,
11 apiaries, kennels, race tracks, cockpits, pet shops, shelters, pounds, animal rescue
12 centers, airport and seaport quarantine stations, animal holding facilities, stables,
13 livestock markets, stockyards, corrals, stud. farms, stock farms, slaughterhouses,
14 aquaria, laboratories, veterinary clinics, and veterinary hospitals;
15

16 (c) *Animal fighting venture* refers to any event, show, exhibition, program, or
17 other activity that involves a fight conducted or to be conducted between two or more
18 animals for purposes of sport, wagering, amusement, or entertainment;
19

20 (d) *Animal Welfare* pertains to the physical and psychological well-being of
21 animals. It includes, but is not limited to, the avoidance of abuse, maltreatment, cruelty,
22 and exploitation of animals by humans by maintaining appropriate standards of
23 accommodation, feeding, and general care, the prevention and treatment of disease,
24 and the assurance of freedom from fear, distress, harassment, and unnecessary
25 discomfort and pain, and allowing animals to express normal behavior;
26

27 (e) *Animal welfare enforcement officer* refers to the Philippine National Police
28 (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and other law enforcement agencies,
29 citizens' groups, community organizations, and other volunteer members of non-
30 governmental organizations (NGOs), and people's organizations designated as such
31 enforcement officers by the Bureau;
32

33 (f) *Board* refers to the Animal Welfare Board;
34

35 (g) *Bureau* refers to the Animal Welfare Bureau;
36

37 (h) *Captive Animals* refers to animals that are confined for educational or
38 recreational purposes in places such as, but not limited to, zoos, sanctuaries, including
39 rescue centers, aquatic facilities and the like;
40

41 (i) *Euthanasia* refers to the Bureau-approved process or method of
42 administering humane ending of life to animals;
43

44 (j) *Keeper* refers to any person who owns, possesses, or has control or custody
45 over an animal;
46

47 (k) *Pets* refers to domesticated animals, documented or otherwise, intended for
48 companionship, therapy, seeing and hearing guides, recreation and value formation,
49 and breeding such as, but not limited to, dogs, cats, fishes, rabbits, rodents, reptiles
50 and birds;

1
2 (l) *Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP)* refers to a legal
3 action filed to harass, vex, exert undue pressure, or stifle any legal recourse that any
4 person, institution, or the government has taken or may take in the enforcement of this
5 Act;

6
7 (m) *Transport Facility* refers to any transportation, public or private, whether air,
8 water, land including tricycles and the like, used to transport animals to a particular
9 destination; and

10
11 (n) *Wild Animals* refers to animals of a species that are not traditionally
12 domesticated in the Philippines, including those captured from their natural habitats.

13
14 The Bureau may define such other terms as may be used in the implementation
15 of this Act.

16
17 CHAPTER I
18 THE ANIMAL WELFARE BUREAU

19
20 SEC. 7. *Animal Welfare Bureau.* – The Animal Welfare Bureau is hereby
21 created as a line bureau under the Department of Agriculture (DA). It shall establish
22 regional, provincial, city, and municipal offices as may be appropriate and necessary
23 to carry out effectively and efficiently the provisions of this Act.

24
25 The Animal Welfare Bureau shall issue animal welfare policies, standards, rules
26 and regulations and ensure the implementation and enforcement of animal welfare
27 regulations, programs, and standards through interagency coordination, programs,
28 and agreements.

29
30 SEC. 8. *Functions of the Bureau.* – As a line bureau, it shall have the following
31 functions:

- 32
33 a) Formulate policies, guidelines, standards, rules, and regulations for the
34 effective implementation of this Act;
35 b) Provide minimum standards on the appropriate food, water, and shelter for
36 each species of pet and animals, depending on the age, breed, size, and
37 special needs thereof;
38 c) In consultation with the Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation
39 Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), the
40 Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), other transport regulating body or
41 agencies, experts, and animal welfare groups, set a species-specific standard
42 for transportation of animals, including definitions for cruel confinement and
43 restraint during transport, appropriate designs for transport cages and facilities,
44 restraint types, provision of food and water, ventilation, and protection from
45 extreme weather conditions;
46 d) Establish an emergency animal response and rescue system to appropriately
47 respond in cases of calamities, such as, but not limited to, typhoons, floods,
48 earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters;
49

- e) Promulgate guidelines for humane slaughter of animals, in consultation with the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), local government units, and other concerned government agencies;
- f) To stop and inspect vehicles or any transport system used to transport animals and to order the closure, stoppage of operation of any transport facility violating the provisions of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, and other issuances for the strict implementation of this Act;
- g) Implement a system for inspection of animal facilities to ensure compliance with animal welfare standards and regulations;
- h) Monitor compliance of the local government units with animal welfare programs, standards, rules, and regulations;
- i) Ensure proper coordination with non-government organizations, people's organizations, and academe for the strict implementation of the rules and regulations issued;
- j) Formulate guidelines and qualifications related to research and testing on animals, ensuring that use of animals in research and testing is only undertaken as a last resort;
- k) To deputize personnel from regional field units, local government units, non-government organizations, people's organizations, community organizations, and certain veterinary professionals to assist in the implementation of this Act;
- l) To exercise administrative adjudication, confiscation, and forfeiture powers, including the power to cite in contempt, in all cases of violations of this Act;
- m) To impose, collect, and enforce administrative sanctions such as:
 - i. payment of fines,
 - ii. the suspension or cancellation of existing permits or certifications
 - iii. disqualification for future permits,
 - iv. the closure of animal facilities, and/or
 - v. the confiscation and forfeiture of all animals, including products, and all paraphernalia, tools, implements, and conveyances used in connection with the commission of the violation, and to dispose of the same in accordance with pertinent laws, regulations, or policies on the matter.
- n) To establish and maintain a database surveillance and management information system on animal welfare in the Philippines;
- o) To operate the Animal Welfare Fund, including collecting monies paid into it and utilizing monies in the account for animal welfare programs;
- p) To issue, suspend, or cancel permits or certifications pursuant to the purposes of this Act;
- q) To levy and collect fees for registration, certification, inspection, and monitoring system, and other fees as the Bureau may deem necessary for the effective implementation of this Act;
- r) Keep records and documents pertaining to animal welfare in the country, as well as the maintenance of a surveillance and management information system on animal welfare;
- s) To create and maintain a web-based registry accessible to the public of all the animal facilities in the country, whether public or private, which registry includes all collected information on each animal facility, including sanctions;
- t) Create a system and guidelines for the determination or approval of applications for certifications, authorizations, and permits necessary for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of animal facilities, as well as to

- 1 issue said certifications, authorizations, and permits and to collect associated
2 fees;
- 3 u) To call upon any government agencies for assistance consistent with its
4 powers, duties, and responsibilities for the purpose of ensuring the effective
5 and efficient implementation of this Act and the rules and regulations
6 promulgated thereunder, and it shall be the duty of such government agency to
7 assist the Bureau when called upon for assistance using any available fund in
8 its budget for the purpose;
- 9 v) To conduct regular as well as random inspections to ensure that the continuing
10 qualifications for the release and renewal of the issued certifications,
11 authorizations, and permits are duly complied with and to impose necessary
12 sanctions in case of non-compliance;
- 13 w) To perform adjudicatory function relating to animal welfare issues, cases, and
14 violations;
- 15 x) To create, establish, and implement a national program on rewards and
16 incentives for the Most Animal Welfare Friendly Region, Province, City, and
17 Municipality;
- 18 y) To issue other permits or certificates that it may deem necessary from time to
19 time; and
- 20 z) Perform such other duties and responsibilities which are necessary to achieve
21 the purposes of this Act.

22
23 *SEC. 9. Composition of the Animal Welfare Bureau.* – As a line bureau, the
24 Bureau shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the President of the
25 Republic of the Philippines and two (2) Assistant Directors who shall correspondingly
26 supervise the administrative and technical services of the Bureau.

27
28 The Director must possess adequate knowledge, training, and experience in
29 the field of agriculture, biology, animal husbandry, veterinary science, veterinary
30 medicine, or other similar disciplines.

31
32 The Bureau shall initially consist of the following Divisions:

- 33 1. Administration and Human Resources
34 2. Policy and Planning
35 3. Advocacy, Training, and Communication
36 4. Inspection and Monitoring
37 5. Legal and Enforcement
38 6. Adjudication
39 7. Finance and Accounting

40
41 The Bureau may reorganize and expand its divisions in the future to effectively
42 and fully implement the provisions of this act.

43
44 *SEC. 10. Personnel and Staffing Pattern.* – Notwithstanding the provisions of
45 existing laws, the Secretary of Agriculture shall require the Director of the Bureau of
46 Animal Industry (BAI), as interim Director of the Bureau, to submit within 30 days from
47 the effectivity of this Act, their recommendation on the personnel and staffing pattern
48 of the Bureau and to submit the same to the Department of Budget and Management
49 and the Civil Service Commission which shall include the functions of each of the

1 named divisions. The BAI Director shall likewise recommend the duties and
2 responsibilities of the Divisions for approval of the DA Secretary.

3
4 CHAPTER II
5 ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD
6

7 SEC. 11. *The Animal Welfare Board.* - There is hereby created an Animal
8 Welfare Policy Board under the Animal Welfare Bureau, which shall perform as the
9 consultative committee to assist in the formulation of various animal welfare policies
10 and guidelines, rules and regulations, standards, as well as the development of
11 welfare programs. It shall act as an advisor to the Bureau on all matters relating to the
12 animal welfare programs, standards, and practices.

13
14 SEC. 12. *Composition of the Board.* - The Animal Welfare Policy Board shall
15 be composed as follows:

16
17 (1) Ex Officio Members - One representative from each of the following:

- 18
19 (a) Department of Agriculture;
20 (b) Animal Welfare Bureau;
21 (c) Bureau of Animal Industry;
22 (d) Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment
23 and Natural Resources (DENR);
24 (e) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
25 (f) Bureau of Fisheries;
26 (g) National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) of the DA;
27 (h) Provincial, City, Municipal Veterinary League Association; and
28 (i) Department of Education

29
30 (2) Appointive Members -

- 31
32 (a) Four (4) representatives from different nationally recognized animal
33 welfare organizations with proven track records on animal welfare and with
34 established programs;
35 (b) One (1) representative from a nationally recognized Veterinary
36 Professional Association;
37 (c) One Representative each from the poultry, livestock, and fisheries
38 associations; and
39 (d) The Secretary may appoint additional members as it may deem
40 necessary to ensure adequate representation of various stakeholders upon
41 recommendation of the Board and the Bureau.

42
43 SEC. 13. *Chairman of the Board.* - The Animal Welfare Policy Board shall be
44 chaired by the Director of the Bureau or his/her duly designated representative. The
45 Bureau shall also act as the Secretariat and shall be responsible for calling the
46 meetings and sending notices for such meetings. The Secretariat shall also be
47 responsible for record-keeping and ensuring the correct transcription of minutes of
48 meetings.

1 SEC. 14. *Meetings, Quorum, Per Diems.* - The Board shall meet at least
2 quarterly, or more often should the need arise. Nine members of the Board shall
3 constitute a quorum, which shall be necessary for voting on any matters before the
4 Board. The Board members shall not receive any compensation but may receive
5 honoraria from time to time, the amount of which shall be decided by the Board.
6

7 SEC. 15. *Appointment by the Secretary.* - Except for the identified Government
8 agencies, the other institutional members of the Committee shall be appointed by the
9 Secretary upon the endorsement of the Bureau Director, pursuant to the application
10 or nomination by their respective agencies/sectors. Each appointive member shall
11 have a term of service of two (2) years, subject to renewal or unless earlier removed
12 for just cause pursuant to the rules on the matter, subject to the assessment of the
13 Animal Welfare Board.
14

15 The procedure for removal and replacement, as well as enforcement of
16 disciplinary actions on the members of the Board, shall be established in the internal
17 rules and regulations of the Board. All policies and guidelines shall be approved by the
18 Board, including its internal rules and regulations.
19

20 CHAPTER III 21 ANIMAL WELFARE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND UNITS 22

23 SEC. 16. *Regional, Provincial, City, Municipal, Animal Welfare Officers.* – A
24 Regional Animal Welfare Officer shall be appointed by the Secretary for each Region
25 upon the recommendation of the Director. This Regional Animal Welfare Officer shall
26 be responsible for implementing animal welfare programs in the region and shall report
27 any issues and concerns directly to the Bureau. Each Regional Animal Welfare Officer
28 must possess the following minimum qualifications:
29

- 30 1. Veterinarian with minimum 2 years of experience in veterinary practice or an
31 animal husbandry graduate; and
32
- 33 2. Has undergone relevant training on animal welfare and related training
34 involving enforcement.
35

36 Provinces and cities shall also assign their respective Animal Welfare Officers
37 and necessary technical support staff from the Provincial/ City Veterinary Offices to
38 effectively implement the provisions of this Act. Municipalities shall likewise appoint an
39 Animal Welfare Officer within their Municipal Agriculture office.
40

41 The Board may add other qualifications as it may deem appropriate to best
42 serve the purposes of this Act.
43

44 SEC. 17. *Barangay Animal Welfare Unit.* - Each Barangay shall hereby be
45 mandated to establish a Barangay Animal Welfare Unit similar to the Barangay Animal
46 Health Worker. The BAWU shall be responsible for the local implementation of animal
47 health, vaccination programs, animal welfare education, spay and neuter, as well as
48 stray population control, in partnership with the Provincial, City Veterinary Office, or in
49 the case of Municipalities, the Municipal Agrarian Officer or Veterinary Officer when
50 present.

1
2 SEC. 18. *Deputization of Animal Welfare Enforcement Officers.* – The
3 Secretary of Agriculture shall deputize animal welfare enforcement officers from non-
4 government organizations, citizens' groups, community organizations, and other
5 volunteers who have undergone necessary training for this purpose.
6

7 The Philippine National Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines
8 (AFP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and other law enforcement agencies
9 shall designate animal welfare enforcement officers who shall assist in the
10 implementation of this Act. In the absence of such enforcement officers, the said law
11 enforcement agencies shall continue to implement the law under their general
12 mandate.
13

14 The animal welfare enforcement officers shall have the full authority to seize
15 and rescue illegally traded or maltreated animals and to arrest violators of this Act,
16 subject to existing laws, rules and regulations on arrest and detention. Regardless of
17 the absence of a designated animal welfare enforcement officer, the same shall not
18 preclude the law enforcement agency from enforcing the provisions of this Act.
19

20 The Bureau shall set guidelines in the training, qualification, reporting, and
21 coordination of deputized animal welfare enforcement officers to cover the following:
22

- 23 1. guidelines on the criteria and training requirements for the deputation of
24 animal welfare enforcement officers; and
- 25 2. mechanism for the supervision, monitoring, and reporting of these
26 enforcement officers.
27

28 CHAPTER III 29 BASIC ANIMAL CARE AND HANDLING GUIDELINES 30

31 SEC. 19. *Provision of Food and Water.* – Any keeper of an animal must provide
32 the animal with, or arrange to have the animal provided with, access to appropriate
33 nutritious food at least once a day, or at a frequency that is typical for the species,
34 sufficient to maintain good health; and, if appropriate for the species, continuous
35 access to potable water that is not frozen, and is free of debris, feces, algae, and other
36 contaminants or toxic substances.
37

38 The Bureau shall provide guidelines on the appropriate food, water, and shelter
39 for the animals depending on the kind, nature, and special needs thereof.
40

41 SEC. 20. *Provision of appropriate shelter and facilities.* - Any keeper of an
42 animal must provide such animal with regular access to a shelter that has a solid floor,
43 protection from the sun, rain, and wind sufficient to maintain good health, is regularly
44 cleaned and sanitized, and is large enough for the animal to lie down, fully stretch its
45 limbs, turn around freely without any impediment, and stand up, including on its hind
46 legs if applicable, allowing the animal to express natural behavior and locomotion.
47

48 SEC. 21. *Provision of Veterinary Medical Care for Sick, Compromised or*
49 *Injured Animals.* - Any keeper of an animal must take all reasonable steps to ensure
50 that the physical, health, and behavioral needs of the animals are met in accordance

1 with good practice and scientific knowledge. This shall include, at minimum, a hands-
2 on examination at least once yearly by a licensed veterinarian; prompt treatment of
3 any illness or injury by a licensed veterinarian; and, where needed, humane
4 euthanasia by a licensed veterinarian.

5
6 SEC. 22. *Provision of Appropriate Transport Facility.* - Transport facilities for
7 animals must be constructed, provisioned, and utilized in such a way as to avoid
8 causing injury or undue suffering to the animals. Transport facilities shall include
9 secure cages or restraint systems appropriate for the species being transported, as
10 well as adequate ventilation to ensure comfort and safety of the animal, appropriate to
11 its nature and size.

12
13 SEC. 23. *Provision of Opportunity for Animals to Express Natural Behaviors*
14 *including Play, Provision of Enrichment Activities, and Exercise.* - Any keeper of an
15 animal must provide such animal regular opportunities to express species-specific
16 natural behaviors, for play and exercise in an area of sufficient space, and for
17 stimulation through environmental enrichment activities to promote their health and
18 welfare. The Bureau, in consultation with stakeholders, shall implement a timeline for
19 improving farm facilities to comply with the provisions hereof.

20
21 SEC. 24. *Early Minimum Standards for handling, care, treatment,*
22 *transportation, and opportunity to express natural behaviors of animals.* – The Bureau
23 shall promulgate standards to govern humane handling, care, treatment and
24 transportation and opportunity to express natural behaviors of animals. The standards
25 shall include minimum requirements for handling, housing, feeding, watering,
26 sanitation, ventilation, adequate veterinary care and separation by species, as well as
27 transportation of animals in commerce and for research and the handling, care and
28 treatment in connection therewith.

29
30 The Bureau, in consultation with experts and key government agencies, shall
31 promulgate other rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to assure humane
32 treatment of animals.

33 34 CHAPTER IV 35 PROHIBITED ACTS 36

37 SEC. 25. *Prohibition on Cruelty, Maltreatment, Abuse and Exploitation of*
38 *Animals.* – It shall be unlawful to torture, abuse, exploit any animal, to neglect to
39 provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any animal, cause or
40 procure to be tortured, or deprive such animals of adequate care, sustenance or
41 shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or experiments not expressly
42 authorized by the Bureau.

43
44 An act of cruelty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 45
46 a) beating, harming, injuring, crushing, mutilating, maiming, disfiguring, stabbing,
47 cutting, poisoning, drowning, torturing, tormenting, starving, overworking, or
48 abusing an animal, or any other act or omission toward an animal, including
49 any act of neglect, causing the animal pain, suffering, or distress, whether
50 physical or psychological;

- b) exposing an animal to inhumane and unsafe conditions and situations including overcrowded, inappropriate, unclean, or unsanitary animal facilities, shelters, or transport facilities;
- c) killing an animal by inhumane methods such as electrocution or gas chamber;
- d) using an animal in research or experiments not expressly authorized by the Bureau; and
- e) overworking an animal.

SEC. 26. *Prohibition on Neglect.* – It shall be unlawful for any keeper of an animal to fail to provide such animal with basic care in accordance with this Act and with the Bureau's minimum standards for unjustifiable reasons. It shall also be unlawful for any keeper of an animal to allow such animal to roam the streets unsupervised, which will result in its impoundment by the local impounding authority.

SEC. 27. *Prohibition on Killing of Animals.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to kill animals other than cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, carabaos, horses, and other animals identified by the Bureau. The killing of pets and animals not customarily consumed as food, or causing or procure the same to be killed, is prohibited, except in the following instances:

- a) When it is done as part of the religious rituals of an established religion or sect, or a ritual required by a tribal or ethnic custom of indigenous cultural communities; however, religious or tribal leaders shall keep records of such animal slaughter, in accordance with relevant guidelines issued on the matter;
- b) When a pet animal is afflicted with an incurable communicable disease as determined, deemed necessary, and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;
- c) When it is done to prevent imminent danger to the life or limb of humans;
- d) Euthanasia of an animal by a duly licensed veterinarian after the animal has been used in an authorized research or experiment in accordance with this Act;
- e) Humane slaughter of a farm animal; or
- f) Any other ground analogous to the foregoing as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian.

In all the above-mentioned cases, the killing shall at all times be done only through euthanasia or other humane procedures approved by the Bureau. For this purpose, humane procedures shall mean the use of the most scientific methods available as may be determined by the Bureau.

SEC. 28. *Prohibition on ear cropping, tail docking, de-vocalization, declawing and other similar mutilation.* – The conduct of ear cropping, tail docking, devocalization, de-clawing, or any other similar mutilation is prohibited, except in cases as may be required for the well-being of the animal as determined by a duly licensed veterinarian. When allowed, the same may only be performed by a duly licensed veterinarian.

SEC. 29. *Prohibition on Animal Fights.* – It is prohibited to subject animals to fights such as, but not limited to, dog fighting, carabao or bull fighting or horse fighting, and the like, not authorized or regulated by law. Any person who participates under

1 circumstances as described herein shall be considered accessories in the commission
2 of animal fighting and/or abetting in the commission of animal cruelty. It shall include,
3 but shall not be limited to, pitting one animal against another for human entertainment,
4 wagering, or sport. In certain instances, one of the animals involved may be a "bait
5 animal" used for the ostensible purpose of sport or training.

6
7 The prohibition on animal fights shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- 8
9 1. Cause, procure, permit, encourage, promote, organize, sponsor, or incite a fight
10 in which an animal is pitted against another animal for any purposes, such as
11 dog fighting and horse fighting and the like;
12 2. Advertise, promote, sell tickets, or otherwise assist in an animal fighting
13 venture;
14 3. Attend such a fight;
15 4. Breed or train any animal for the purpose of having it fight, engage, or otherwise
16 participate in an animal fighting venture;
17 5. Permit an animal fighting venture to take place on any site, structure, facility or
18 other premises under the person's ownership or control; or
19 6. Attend, wager on, or otherwise patronize an animal fighting venture;
20 7. Cause or allow a person who has not yet reached the age of 18 to attend an
21 animal fighting venture.
22

23 Animal fighting ventures held during festivities, festivals, fiestas and the like are
24 not exempt from this Section and are strictly prohibited.

25
26 SEC. 30. *Prohibition on Dog Meat Trading.* - It shall be unlawful for any person
27 to engage in the trade of dogs, including the farming or capture, transport, sale or
28 slaughter of dogs and their meat for commercial human consumption.

29
30 The trade of dogs shall include but shall not be limited to buying and/or selling
31 of dogs, dog meats and carcasses, dog farming, collecting, and/or slaughtering of
32 dogs for commercial consumption.

33
34 SEC. 31. *Prohibition on Abandonment.* - It shall be unlawful for any keeper of
35 an animal, whether temporary or permanent, to abandon such animal.

36
37 SEC. 32. *Operating an animal facility without Permit/Certification.* - Operating
38 any facility without the necessary permit or certification from the Bureau is hereby
39 prohibited.

40
41 CHAPTER V
42 ENFORCEMENT
43

44 SEC. 33. *General.* – The Bureau, either independently or in cooperation with
45 local government units, the registered NGOs, Animal Welfare Enforcement Officers,
46 Philippine National Police, and other concerned parties, is authorized to carry out
47 enforcement operations and measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of
48 this Act and to eradicate, stop and prevent activities that are prohibited under this Act.
49

1 SEC. 34. *Visitorial/Inspection power.* – Owners and/or operators of animal
2 facilities shall be subjected to regular, as well as random inspections by the Bureau or
3 its authorized officers and employees to ensure compliance with the standards set
4 forth by this Act and subsequent rules and regulations. Fines, suspension, or
5 revocation of permits or certificates may be imposed on owners/operators subject to
6 rules and regulations prescribed by the Bureau. Facilities operating without the
7 necessary permit or certification will be penalized.

8
9 SEC. 35. *Apprehension of Offending Person/s.* - Any person who has
10 knowledge or information about the commission of any of the prohibited acts defined
11 herein may refer the same to the law enforcement authority, or to the Animal Welfare
12 Bureau and/or its deputized animal welfare enforcement officers, or other law
13 enforcement agencies for appropriate action. The procedure for filing criminal charges
14 shall be as prescribed by the rules of criminal procedure contained in the Rules of
15 Court.

16
17 SEC. 36. *Seizure of Effects.* - Any items seized, including animals, pursuant to
18 arrests made for violation of any provision of this Code shall be held by any person,
19 facility, organization, authorized by the Bureau, including the local government units,
20 the law enforcement agencies, or any Bureau-accredited NGO pending disposition of
21 administrative, civil, and criminal proceedings. Animals seized shall be referred to
22 Bureau-accredited animal facilities. For wildlife, the same shall be referred to the
23 DENR-BMB, without prejudice to the latter's referral or transfer of the animals to other
24 animal facilities, provided it has better and more suitable facilities.

25
26 Any animals seized and/or rescued from any inhumane condition or facility shall
27 be immediately relieved from such condition or situation without prejudice to the
28 immediate conduct of proper documentation such as photographing for purposes of
29 preserving evidence.

30
31 SEC. 37. *Rescue of Animals in an enclosed facility.* – Animals found to have
32 been abandoned, deprived of basic care, protection, and food or subjected to
33 inhumane or cruel situations, kept in an enclosed, locked, secured, or sealed facility,
34 whether public or private, may be rescued, in coordination with the concerned local
35 government units, the law enforcement agencies, Animal Welfare Enforcement
36 Officers or Non-government organizations (NGOs). The said enclosed facility may be
37 broken open, *provided* that prior reasonable and diligent efforts are exerted to contact
38 the owner of the facility. Except in cases where there is an imminent danger to the life
39 of the animal, diligent effort to contact the owner of the facility may be dispensed with,
40 provided the Barangay or the Police, or any licensed veterinarian has certified on the
41 occurrence of such danger.

42
43 Animals rescued shall be referred to the local government pound or shelter,
44 Bureau-accredited animal facilities, subject to rules and regulations as may be issued.
45 For wildlife, the same shall be referred to the Department of Environment and Natural
46 Resources (DENR) or their nearest regional offices.

47
48 SEC. 38. *Protection Orders.* - A protection order is a relief granted under this
49 Act for the purpose of preventing further violations of the provisions herein, as well as
50 to protect an animal from further distress, fear, cruelty, or discomfort by relieving them

1 or removing them from such inhumane condition and granting other necessary relief.
2 The protection order shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies, deputized animal
3 welfare enforcement officers, or the Bureau.
4

5 The protection orders that may be issued under this Act are the Barangay
6 Protection Order (BPO), temporary protection order (TPO) and permanent protection
7 order (PPO). A Barangay Protection Order is issued by the barangay office where the
8 perpetrator of the prohibited act or the complaining individual or entity lives or holds
9 office. This BPO shall be effective for 15 days.
10

11 A Temporary Protection Order shall be issued by the court having jurisdiction
12 over the case filed against the respondent, which shall last for a period of thirty 30
13 days. A Permanent Protection Order shall be issued by the appropriate court having
14 jurisdiction over the case filed against the respondent, which shall remain in effect
15 unless revoked by the court after a dismissal of the case against the respondent.
16

17 A protection order may be sought by any concerned citizen, deputized animal
18 welfare officer, law enforcement officers, the Board, or the LGU through the City or
19 Provincial Veterinary Officers.
20

21 The protection under this Act may include any of the following reliefs:
22

- 23 a) Prohibition of respondent from taking possession of the animal(s) that are or
24 were in the respondent's possession;
- 25 b) Prohibition of respondent from taking possession of any animal for the duration
26 of the protection order;
- 27 c) Prohibition of respondent from purchasing any live animal for any purpose for
28 the duration of the protection order;
- 29 d) Directing the respondent to stay away from the person who has caused the
30 apprehension of respondent and his or her family or household member at a
31 distance specified in the protection order or a minimum of 50 meters;
- 32 e) Directing the respondent to stay away from the residence, school, place of
33 employment or any specified place frequented by a particular Reporter, as well
34 as such Reporter's designated family or household member/s;
- 35 f) Granting temporary or permanent custody of the animal to any animal welfare
36 enforcement officer or any interested animal welfare group who shall apply for
37 the custody of said animal/s;
- 38 g) Restitution for actual costs for the rescue, care and rehabilitation of animal/s
39 subject matter of the protection order; and
- 40 h) Such other forms of relief as the court deems necessary to protect any animals
41 as well as any Reporter and the Reporter's designated family or household
42 member/s.
43

44 The issuance of the BPO or the pendency of an application for BPO shall not
45 preclude the application for or the granting of TPO or PPO. Any violation of the
46 protection order shall be deemed as a multiple violation under this Act and shall be
47 penalized accordingly.
48

49 *SEC. 39. Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) in the*
50 *Enforcement of this Act.* - If a person believes that a legal action filed against the

1 person constitutes a SLAPP, such person may make such assertion as an affirmative
2 defense in the action. A special hearing on the SLAPP affirmative defense shall be
3 held by the court at the earliest possible juncture in the action. The hearing on the
4 SLAPP affirmative defense shall be summary in nature, and the SLAPP affirmative
5 defense shall be resolved within thirty (30) days after the summary hearing. If the court
6 dismisses the action pursuant to the SLAPP affirmative defense, the court may award
7 attorney's fees and costs of suit, as well as damages under a counterclaim if such has
8 been filed. The dismissal shall be with prejudice.

9
10 If the court rejects the SLAPP affirmative defense, the evidence adduced during
11 the summary hearing shall be treated as evidence of the parties on the merits of the
12 case. The action shall proceed in accordance with the Rules of Court.

13
14 SEC. 40. *Disputable Presumption*. - If, at the time of apprehension, a person
15 lacks the appropriate permit, certification, or clearance, or authority, issued by the
16 Bureau or other pertinent government agencies, including a duly licensed Local
17 Government Veterinarian, the following shall constitute prima facie evidence of the
18 corresponding illegal acts punishable under this Act:

- 19
20 a) The possession of a body, carcasses or any parts thereof, meats of any animals
21 prohibited to be killed, whether raw, cooked or processed, other than those
22 allowed under existing laws on food animals, without justification or necessary
23 permit or veterinary certificate from the Bureau, LGU Veterinarian, or the
24 National Meat Inspection Service or local slaughterhouses showing the reasons
25 for the killing and the method used for the killing as well as the purpose for
26 which the carcasses is to be used is a presumption that the animals were killed
27 under circumstances prohibited under this Act thus, punishable, *provided* that
28 such possession includes the possession of any paraphernalia used for killing,
29 torture or maltreatment such as clubs, knife, cages, restraints along with live or
30 dead animals including any of its products and derivatives shall be a disputable
31 presumption that the possessor caused the killing and/or destruction, infliction
32 of injury, maltreatment, as appropriate; and
33
34 b) Presence of fresh and/or dried blood, by-products or derivatives of the animals,
35 with or without the tools, equipment, and/or paraphernalia derivatives, shall be
36 a disputable presumption of the killing and/or destruction of the habitat of the
37 animal involved.

38
39 SEC. 41. *Emergency Response*. – The Bureau shall create and implement, in
40 collaboration with the local government units and non-government organizations, an
41 interagency emergency response program for rescuing and caring for animals in times
42 of calamity, including but not limited to floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, fires,
43 and the like. Such program shall include placing the animals in identified temporary
44 shelters and/or recognized rescue centers, whether public or private, until they are
45 claimed by their rightful owners or can be rehomed appropriately.

46
47 The Bureau, through the local government units, shall likewise establish an
48 emergency response system to rescue and/or refer animals that are victims of abuse,
49 cruelty and maltreatment to recognized animal shelters or facilities, whether public or
50 private.

1
2 SEC. 42. *Custody of Rescued Animals.* - Any animal/s seized or rescued from
3 violators of this Act made in response to a violation of any provision of this Act and
4 subsequent guidelines, rules, and regulations may be held in custody pending
5 disposition of administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings. Animals seized or rescued
6 shall be referred to the Local Government Pound or Shelter, Bureau-accredited animal
7 facilities, subject to rules and regulations as may hereinafter be issued. For wildlife,
8 the same shall be referred to the DENR-BMB or their nearest regional offices.
9

10 Local Government Pound or Shelter, Bureau-accredited animal facilities, and
11 all registered animal facilities must conduct free adoption events. These free adoption
12 events must be posted on the city/municipal announcement board, and on any social
13 media account of both the animal facility or pound and the city/municipality.
14

15 CHAPTER VI
16 ADJUDICATION AND AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE
17 ADMINISTRATIVE FINES AND PENALTIES
18

19 SEC. 43. *Authority to Adjudicate and Administer Administrative Penalties.* – The
20 Bureau or their respective authorized representatives are authorized to exercise
21 administrative adjudication, confiscation and forfeiture powers, including the power to
22 cite in contempt, in all cases of violations of this Act and may impose administrative
23 sanctions such as payment of fines, and/or order the suspension or cancellation of
24 existing permits, certifications and disqualification for future permits, the closure of
25 facilities, and/or the confiscation and forfeiture of all animals including products, and
26 all paraphernalia, tools, implements and conveyances used in connection with the
27 commission of the violation, and to dispose of the same in accordance with pertinent
28 laws, regulations or policies on the matter. The Bureau or its authorized
29 representatives may, after due notice and hearing, cancel or suspend permits,
30 clearances, agreements and/or certificates due to violation of this Act, its implementing
31 rules and regulations, and/or the terms of the permits, agreements or certificates. The
32 Bureau, upon approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, shall issue appropriate
33 adjudication procedures, rule and regulations.
34

35 CHAPTER VII
36 PERMITS, CERTIFICATES AND AUTHORITY TO
37 COLLECT FEES AND CHARGES
38

39 SEC. 44. *Certificate of Registration and Permits.* - No person, association,
40 partnership, corporation, cooperative or any government agency or instrumentality
41 shall establish, maintain, or operate any animal facility, including transport facility
42 public or private, without first securing from the Bureau a certificate of registration
43 thereof. Any facility, public or private, that has a minimum of ten (10) dogs or cats
44 combined or otherwise shall be considered as operating an animal facility when the
45 following circumstances are present:
46

- 47 a) when operating and representing itself publicly as such; or
48 b) when it has been securing donations or effecting rescue under the definition of
49 this Act.
50

1
2 As such, the said facility shall be covered by the guidelines and requirements
3 of the Act.
4

5 The Bureau may revoke or cancel the certificate of registration of an animal
6 facility if such animal facility is found to be in violation of any provision of this Act or
7 any associated guidelines, rules, regulations, or standards, or other just causes.
8

9 SEC. 45. *Mayor's Permit Requirement.* - No LGU shall issue Mayor's or
10 business permit to any person, association, partnership, corporation, cooperative or
11 government agency or instrumentality without the presentation of certificate coming
12 from the Bureau that it has complied with the animal welfare standards set forth herein
13 or any rules and regulations as may hereafter be enforced.
14

15 CHAPTER VIII 16 OTHER ANIMAL WELFARE PROVISIONS 17

18 SEC. 46. *Use of Animals for Show, Media, TV, Movies or Entertainment.* – The
19 promoters/organizers of animal shows, media or entertainment shall obtain necessary
20 permits from the Bureau when using animals. The presence of a licensed veterinarian
21 during the entire show, taping, shooting, or program shall be required. The Bureau
22 shall lay down the requirements for this purpose. All other provisions regarding proper
23 care and treatment of animals in general shall apply to these animals used for show
24 or entertainment, especially with respect to transport, holding area, allowance for rest
25 and provision of food and water.
26

27 It shall be unlawful for producers and promoters of shows where animals are
28 used to import, procure or use animals from sources without animal welfare
29 standards/laws and/or has been shown to have maltreated or exposed animals to
30 inhumane conditions prior to its importation. The animal should be given sufficient food
31 and accommodation as well as adequate rest for the entire duration of its stay in the
32 Philippines.
33

34 SEC. 46. *Use of animals for work.* – Animals used as working animals including
35 but not limited to carriage horses, farm animals and the like must comply with the
36 minimum standards set forth herein and as may be issued by the Bureau. Working
37 animals should not be allowed to work under circumstances where its health and
38 safety will be at risk. Overworking of animals is hereby prohibited. Water and
39 appropriate shelter protecting them from extreme weather conditions must be
40 provided.
41

42 SEC. 47. *Use of animals as guide or service animals.* – Service animals, such
43 as but not limited to guide/service dogs, police or K9 dogs, are hereby regulated by
44 the Bureau. Certification guidelines and standards for accreditation of dogs shall be
45 established by the Bureau in consultation with relevant agencies and concerned
46 groups. Service dog / Guide dog shall be defined accordingly.
47

48 SEC. 48. *Use of Animals in Research.* – Animals used in scientific procedures,
49 research, and studies shall be regulated by the Bureau, ensuring that animal welfare
50 regulations and guidelines in the use, experimentation, testing, and manipulation of

1 animals for said purpose are complied with at all times. The academe and research
2 institutions are encouraged to use non-animal research, testing, or educational models
3 or strategies when reasonably and practicably available. Animal experimentation may
4 be performed only as a last resort upon exhaustion of alternative approaches.

5
6 No person, partnership, corporation, cooperative, government agency or
7 instrumentality undertaking or operating any research facility shall use any animal in
8 research or experiments without first obtaining a written authorization from the Bureau
9 upon compliance with such guidelines and qualifications set by the Bureau.

10
11 SEC. 49. *Farm Animals*. - The Bureau shall set out standards and guidelines in
12 consultation with the stakeholders to be gradually complied with.

13
14 SEC. 50. *Transportation of Animals*. –

- 15
16 a) No person shall transport an animal or cause an animal to be transported in a
17 way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to such animal, including but not
18 limited to overcrowding, lack of adequate ventilation and appropriate transport
19 cages, unnecessary or painful restraint, improper and unsafe stowing, transport
20 during extreme weather condition and the like, as well as failure to adequately
21 provide food and water for the transported animals.
22
23 b) No person transporting an animal in connection with an economic activity shall
24 fail to:
25 i. Ensure that such animal is fit to travel and checked regularly during the
26 voyage, at least once every six hours;
27 ii. Protect such animal from extreme temperatures, with journeys limited to
28 a duration as prescribed by the Bureau, depending on the species,
29 nature and needs of the transported animal;
30 iii. Ensure that vehicle loading and unloading facilities are constructed and
31 maintained to avoid injury and suffering;
32 iv. Provide sufficient floor space and height allowance to allow such animal
33 to lie down, stand up, fully stretch its limbs, and turn around freely without
34 any impediment; and
35 v. After each eight-hour travel period, rest such animal off the vehicle for at
36 least 24 hours, providing such animal sufficient water and feed.

37
38 For purposes of this Section, transport "in connection with an economic
39 activity" includes but is not limited to journeys undertaken by commercial
40 haulers, farmers, commercial animal breeders, and horse racers. Such
41 transport is not limited to transport where an immediate exchange of money,
42 goods, or services takes place and instead includes, in particular, transport
43 which directly or indirectly involves or aims at a financial gain.

- 44
45 c) No person shall transport an animal fewer than eight (8) weeks old, a pregnant
46 female who has passed through 90% of her expected gestational period, a
47 female who has given birth in the past seven days, or a sick or injured animal,
48 unless such transport is to or from a veterinary practice or clinic;
49

- 1 d) Any violation of this Section shall be penalized even if the transporter has a
2 permit to transport from the Bureau;
3
4 e) Any violation of this Section shall be penalized even if the transporter has a
5 permit to transport from the Bureau; and
6
7 f) Any vehicle used in the transportation or importation/exportation of animals in
8 violation of the provisions of this Act shall be deemed an instrument employed
9 in the commission of the crime and shall be ordered confiscated and forfeited
10 in favor of the government upon conviction of the accused.
11

12 SEC. 51. *Importation and Export of Live Animals.* - For the import and/or export
13 of live animals, compliance with the provisions of this Act must be ensured, including
14 proper holding facilities. Import of animals from countries of extreme cold climates
15 shall be prohibited unless specifically authorized on a case-by-case basis by the
16 Bureau upon submission of an approved care and sustainability program or plan.
17

18 SEC. 52. *Spay and Neuter and Vaccination of Stray Cats, Dogs and other*
19 *Animals.* – The local government units, in coordination with the Bureau's municipal,
20 provincial or regional offices, shall implement a mandatory spay and neuter for stray
21 dogs, cats and other animals identified by the Bureau. The Bureau may come up with
22 other dog/cat population control programs, except by killing or euthanasia, in keeping
23 with what is relevant and necessary. Pest control companies shall not be allowed to
24 capture and dispose of cats and/or dogs.
25

26 SEC. 53. *Communication, Education and other Public Awareness Campaigns.*
27 - The Bureau, together with other agencies, NGOs and stakeholders, shall implement
28 programs towards increasing awareness on animal welfare through education and
29 various information awareness activities and programs.
30

31 CHAPTER XII 32 PENALTIES 33

34 SEC. 54. *Penalties.* –
35

- 36 a) Any person who subjects any animal to cruelty, torture, maltreatment or any of
37 the prohibited acts herein shall be punished with a minimum imprisonment of 1
38 year and 6 months to a maximum of three years and/or a minimum fine of
39 P30,000 but not exceeding P100,000 pesos as maximum.
40

- 41 b) Abandonment of animal shall be punished by a penalty of 6 months to one year
42 and/or a fine not exceeding P10,000.
43

44 If the animal is left in circumstances likely to cause the animal unnecessary
45 suffering or if this abandonment results in the death or injury of the animal, the
46 person liable shall suffer the maximum penalty.
47

- 48 c) Operating an animal facility, including any animal transport facility, without the
49 required permit, shall be punished with a penalty of imprisonment of 6 months
50 to a maximum of 1 year and/or fine not exceeding 100,000 or both such fine

1 and imprisonment without prejudice to the administrative liability of the
2 owner/operator.

- 3
- 4 d) Failure to obtain the required permits to use animals for show, entertainment,
5 or any form of media, or use animals for research and /or scientific education
6 experiments, shall be punished with a minimum imprisonment of 6 months to a
7 maximum of 1 year and 6 months and/ or fine not exceeding 30,000.If the
8 violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately deported after
9 the service of sentence without any further proceedings;
- 10
- 11 e) If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the offender responsible
12 thereof shall serve imprisonment. If the violation is committed by an alien, he or
13 she shall be immediately deported after the service of sentence without any
14 further proceedings;
- 15
- 16 f) The penalty of two years and one day to three years imprisonment and a fine
17 of not exceeding Five Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) shall be
18 imposed if the offense involves any of the following circumstances:
- 19
- 20 i. committed by a syndicate involving a group of three or more individuals;
 - 21 ii. committed by an offender who makes business out of cruelty to animal;
 - 22 iii. committed by a public officer or employee; or
 - 23 iv. where at least three animals are involved.
- 24

25 In any of the foregoing situations, the offender shall suffer subsidiary
26 imprisonment in case of insolvency and the inability to pay the fine.

- 27
- 28 g) The maximum applicable penalty shall be imposed upon a person who, at the
29 time of his or her trial for a violation of this Act, shall have been previously
30 convicted by final judgment of the same or another violation of this Act;
- 31
- 32 h) Any person found guilty of dog meat trading shall be fined not less than Five
33 Thousand Pesos per dog and subjected to imprisonment for one year to four
34 years;
- 35
- 36 i) Violation of any other provisions of this Act shall be penalized by minimum
37 imprisonment of three (3) months to a maximum of 1 year and/or fine not
38 exceeding 5,000 or both such fine and imprisonment;
- 39
- 40 j) The liability of any person herein is without prejudice to his/her liability for any
41 other offenses under another law, including administrative;
- 42
- 43 k) Any person who has been habitually convicted of a violation of this Act shall be
44 permanently and perpetually disqualified from being issued any permits or
45 certificate to operate any animal facility including owning or possessing an
46 animal/pet;
- 47
- 48 l) The Court in its discretion may, in lieu of service in jail, require that penalties
49 imposed less than one year be served by the defendant by rendering
50 community service under such terms and conditions that the court may

determine depending on the gravity of the offense. Under this circumstance, the court will prepare an order imposing the penalty of community service in lieu of the penalty, specifying the number of hours to be worked and the period for it to be completed. Community service to be rendered must be related to assistance to animals.

CHAPTER XIII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 55. *Animal Welfare Fund.* - There is hereby established an Animal Welfare Fund to be administered by the Bureau as a special account in the National Treasury. It shall finance the programs of the Bureau on animal welfare, including the planning and conduct of enforcement operations.

The Fund shall be derived from fines imposed and damages awarded pursuant to violations of this Act, fees charged for permits, registrations, and authorizations, donations, endowments, administrative fees or grants in the form of contributions. Contribution to the Fund shall be exempt from donor taxes and all other taxes, charges or fees imposed by the government.

SEC 56. *Mandatory Animal Welfare Education.* - It shall be mandatory for all primary and secondary education schools, public and private, to integrate in their curriculum and have activities on the following:

1. the promotion and protection of the welfare of animals;
2. responsible pet ownership; and
3. concept of animal welfare.

SEC. 57. *Emergency Response.* - The Bureau shall create and implement, in collaboration with the local government units and animal welfare NGOs, an interagency emergency response program for rescuing and caring for animals in times of calamity, including but not limited to floods, earthquakes and the like. Such program shall include the establishment and placement of the animals in identified animal evacuation centers, temporary shelters, and/or recognized rescue centers, whether public or private, until the same are claimed by their rightful owners or can be rehomed appropriately.

The Bureau, through the LGUs, shall likewise establish an emergency response system to rescue and/or refer animal victims of abuse, cruelty, and maltreatment to recognized animal shelters or facilities, whether public or private.

SEC. 58. *Role of Local Government Units and other government agencies.* - Local government units shall support the Bureau in the implementation of this Act by issuing necessary animal welfare ordinances and implementing animal welfare programs in coordination with the Bureau, including the conduct of mandatory spay and neuter to control dog and cat population as well as veterinary access. Other government agencies handling animals within the definition of this Act are required to adopt and implement animal welfare standards, policies, rules and regulations in their operation consistent with this Act.

1 Recognizing the important role of the Barangay, a Barangay Animal Welfare
2 Task Force shall be created and shall adopt programs consistent with the provisions
3 of this Act and rules and regulations issued to implement the purpose of this Act.
4

5 SEC. 59. *Construction of the law.* - This Act shall be liberally construed in favor
6 of the promotion and protection of the welfare of the animals.
7

8 SEC. 60. *Appropriation.* – The sum necessary to effectively carry out the
9 provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the budget of the Department of
10 Agriculture. The subsequent funding shall be included in the annual General
11 Appropriation Act.
12

13 SEC. 61. *Transition.* - During the transition within one year from effectivity
14 hereof, the existing Bureau of Animal Industry shall remain to be the supervisory
15 authority in the implementation of the provisions of this Act and shall manage,
16 supervise, turn over, and monitor the establishment of the Bureau until the same
17 becomes operational, including the assignment and appointment of personnel and
18 staff during the transition.
19

20 SEC. 62. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
21 unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not
22 affected, shall continue to be in full force and effect.
23

24 SEC. 63. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations
25 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended
26 accordingly.
27

28 SEC. 64. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
30
31

Approved,