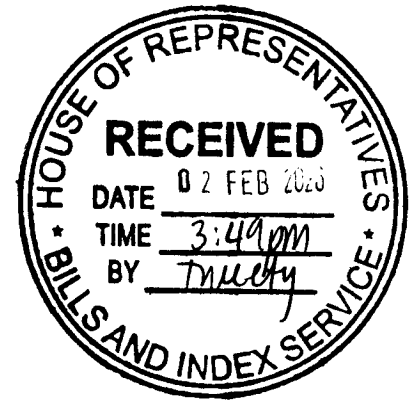


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7552



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

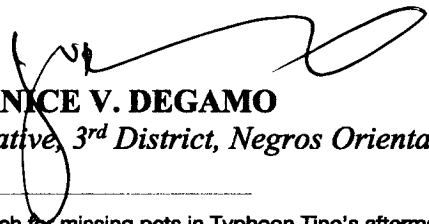
Animals are far more than a background scenery in our society. They have played big roles throughout history. In the Philippines, they are integral to family life, economic sustenance, and national identity. From the pets providing companionship, to the carabaos tilling our farms, each creature adds a unique thread in our culture and personal lives.

Republic Act No. 8485 or “The Animal Welfare Act of 1998” established a policy of protection and promotion of the welfare of all animals in the Philippines.

Like humans, animals are also vulnerable to the impacts of disaster yet the lack the ability to evacuate or protect themselves. The Philippines is prone to calamities and have experienced some of the worst disasters which has forced thousands of Filipinos to evacuate and leave their homes. Unfortunately, many families were not able to bring their pets ¹, livestock, and working animals² with them to safety. For others, staying and securing their animals during calamities pose great risk to their life and limb.³

At present, there are no clear guidelines for protecting and rescuing pets during calamities. Hence, government agencies must be mandated to provide policy guidelines for the humane and safe evacuation and rescue of animals during calamities.

Through the passage of this bill, we seek to safeguard not only the livelihoods of our fellow Filipinos but also the welfare and lives of animals. For these reasons, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


JANICE V. DEGAMO

Representative, 3rd District, Negros Oriental

¹ Owners search for missing pets in Typhoon Tino's aftermath, Airam Limatog, Cebu Daily News, November 10, 2025, <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/668814/owners-search-for-missing-pets-in-typhoon-tinos-aftermath> (last accessed 21 January 2026)

² Cebu quake leaves P170 million losses in livestock, facilities, Leo Udtohan, Inquirer.Net, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2125822/cebu-quake-leaves-p170-million-losses-in-livestock-facilities> (last accessed 21 January 2026)

³ Senior citizen dies while rescuing pet cats in Catbalogan, Samar, GMA Integrated News, November 11 2025, https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/965617/senior-citizen-dies-while-rescuing-pet-cats-in-catbalogan-samar/story/7fbckld-iwY2xlawPdtPoleHBUA2FibQixMABicmIkETEwTmpe8N1ZaeDU0ZEFpU1ZQc3J0YwZhcHBtaWQGMllyMDM5MTc4ODhwMDQ5MgABHq7_gKerVnY5xhF43T3KH-BY1y6pVyeKa8KhvGGieGG0KOkPVXevFWc3dNG_aem_vzXAxEKtGRNQUXZd8G3w (last accessed 21 January 2026)

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AN ACT

**MANDATING THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO PROMULGATE GUIDELINES FOR THE
RESCUE OF ANIMALS IN CASES OF CALAMITY**

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

Section 1. Short Title.-This Act shall be known as the “ Animal Protection and Rescue in Calamities Act of 2026”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy.- It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the rhythm and harmony of nature. It is likewise the policy of the state to promote and uphold animal welfare in the Philippines.

Section 3. Definition of Terms.- As used in this Act:

- A. Household pets- refers to domesticated animals traditionally kept in the home for companionship, pleasure, enjoyment, or support;
- B. Livestock- refers to domesticated animals raised in agricultural setting to produce labor and commodities such as but not limited to meat, eggs, fur, or leather;
- C. Working Animal- refers to an animal, usually domesticated, that is kept by humans and trained to perform tasks;
- D. Calamity- refers to disastrous event marked by great loss and lasting distress and/or suffering.

Section 4. Scope. This Act shall apply to all household pets, livestock, and working animals, whether publicly or privately owned.

Section 5. Roles and Responsibilities.- The Department of Agriculture (DA), with the assistance of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), shall identify, prepare, and provide policy guidance and technical resource assistance with regard to the rescue of household pets, livestock, and working animals in cases of calamity.

The owners and/ or custodians of the covered animals are required to register the same with their respective barangays which shall maintain and update their records regularly. The barangay shall coordinate with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and municipal agricultural offices to ensure that accurate animal data are readily available for evacuation planning and rescue operations.

In the event of a calamity, barangays and animal owners and/ or custodians shall take all reasonable measures to secure the safety of animals within a reasonable period from the forced evacuation of residents in the area. If the measures cannot be implemented because of safety hazards, the matter shall be referred to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for the appropriate action, ensuring that the steps taken is toward the protection of the animal and to minimize any financial loss to their owners.

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

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.- The DA, in consultation with the NDRRMC, BAI and relevant stakeholders shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

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

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

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

Approved,