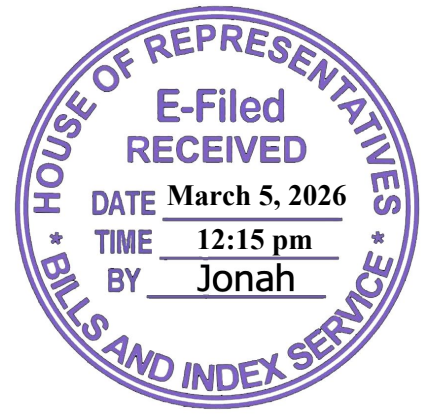


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8301**



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The welfare of animals is a matter of public interest that directly affects community health, safety, and social responsibility. While existing laws such as Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, and Republic Act No. 9482 provide frameworks for animal protection and rabies prevention, access to affordable and reliable veterinary services remains uneven across the country. Many local government units lack adequate facilities, equipment, and personnel to deliver essential animal health services.

This measure seeks to institutionalize the establishment of a public veterinary clinic in every city and municipality, under the supervision of the respective local government units and in coordination with the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industry. These clinics shall provide basic veterinary services, including vaccination, spay and neuter programs, treatment of common animal illnesses, and support for zoonotic disease control.

By strengthening local veterinary infrastructure, this bill promotes responsible pet ownership, advances animal welfare, enhances rabies prevention efforts, and supports the broader goal of safeguarding public health. It likewise ensures alignment with existing laws while respecting the principles of local autonomy under Republic Act No. 7160.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8301

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC VETERINARY CLINIC IN EVERY CITY AND
MUNICIPALITY IN THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING FOR THEIR
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”**

*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 "Animal Medical Center Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared a policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of every animal, recognize their intrinsic value, and ensure that their basic health and safety needs are adequately met. Towards this end, the State shall establish and strengthen accessible and affordable animal health and veterinary services in all local government units nationwide, thereby contributing to public health, responsible pet ownership, and a humane society.

This Act shall supplement and strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended by Republic Act No. 10631, and other related animal health and welfare laws, and shall be implemented in harmony with existing statutes governing animal protection and public health.

SECTION 3. *Establishment.* There shall be established, operated, and continuously maintained a public veterinary clinic in every city and municipality in the country. These clinics shall be under the direct control and supervision of the respective city or municipal local government unit (LGU), in consultation and coordination with the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI).

The public veterinary clinics established under this Act shall serve as the primary local facilities for the implementation of relevant animal health and rabies prevention programs pursuant to Republic Act No. 9482 and other related laws and shall not be construed to diminish existing mandates of local government units under said Act.

SECTION 4. *Provision of Facilities and Equipment.* The concerned city or municipal LGU shall provide an adequate, accessible, and suitable lot or space where the public veterinary clinic shall be constructed or established. The clinics shall be equipped with essential machines, equipment, instruments, and supplies necessary for providing comprehensive basic veterinary services.

SECTION 5. *Functions and Services.* The public veterinary clinics shall perform functions and provide services including, but not limited to:

- (a) Providing routine vaccinations (*e.g.*, anti-rabies, distemper) and deworming services;
- (b) Conducting spay and neuter programs for pet population control;
- (c) Offering basic veterinary consultations, diagnoses, and medical treatments for common animal illnesses;
- (d) Performing minor surgical procedures;
- (e) Assisting in the control and prevention of zoonotic diseases in coordination with local health offices;
- (f) Conducting animal welfare awareness and responsible pet ownership campaigns;
- (g) Maintaining a database of registered pets and vaccinated animals within the LGU's jurisdiction subject to applicable data privacy laws and regulations;
- (h) Providing basic emergency care for animals; and
- (i) Coordinating with local animal welfare organizations and law enforcement for animal rescue and cruelty cases.

SECTION 6. *Organizational Structure and Staffing.* The local chief executive shall appoint a qualified Chief Veterinarian to head the public veterinary clinic, who shall have the necessary professional qualifications and experience as prescribed by the Civil Service Commission and the Professional Regulation Commission and must be a duly licensed veterinarian in good standing in accordance with Republic Act No. 9268. The Chief Veterinarian shall render full-time service and be responsible for the clinic's overall administration and operation. The local chief executive shall also appoint the necessary veterinary medical, technical, and administrative personnel and staff, proportionate to the needs of the LGU and in accordance with relevant civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 7. *Design, Policies, Terms and Conditions.* The LGU shall prepare the design and layout of the clinic structure in consultation with the DA-BAI. The LGU shall also formulate and implement appropriate local policies, guidelines, fees (if any, for non-indigent cases, and subject to LGU ordinances), and terms and conditions relative to the efficient operation and maintenance of the public veterinary clinic, ensuring accessibility and affordability of services.

The exercise of authority by the LGU under this Section shall remain subject to existing national standards prescribed by the Department of Agriculture and consistent with applicable public health regulations issued by the Department of Health, particularly in matters involving zoonotic disease prevention and control.

SECTION 8. *Funding.* For the initial establishment and construction/renovation of public veterinary clinics, an initial appropriation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act for the ensuing fiscal year following the approval of this Act. This initial funding shall be allocated as a subsidy from the National Government, through the Department of Agriculture, to cities and municipalities in meeting the capital outlay requirements for these facilities.

The National Government shall prioritize the provision of financial assistance to ensure that no local government unit is unduly burdened in the initial establishment of the required facilities under this Act.

The city or municipal local government unit shall primarily be responsible for providing the necessary funds for the continuous operation, maintenance, and personnel services of their respective public veterinary clinics. Such funds shall be included in their annual regular appropriations. The Department of Agriculture may provide supplementary financial assistance or technical support for specific programs (e.g., mass vaccination, spay/neuter drives) as part of its regular mandate.

Implementation of this Act shall be subject to the fiscal capacity of the local government units concerned and consistent with the principles of local fiscal autonomy under Republic Act No. 7160.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as an unfunded mandate imposed upon local government units.

SECTION 9. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* The DA-BAI, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and relevant professional organizations, shall establish a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the establishment, operation, and effectiveness of the public veterinary clinics. This system shall ensure compliance with national standards, promote best practices, and facilitate continuous improvement of animal health

services nationwide.

Monitoring mechanisms established under this Act shall complement and not duplicate existing regulatory and supervisory functions of the Department of Agriculture under Republic Act No. 8485, as amended.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the DA-BAI, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and such other relevant agencies and professional organizations, shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* If any portion or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,