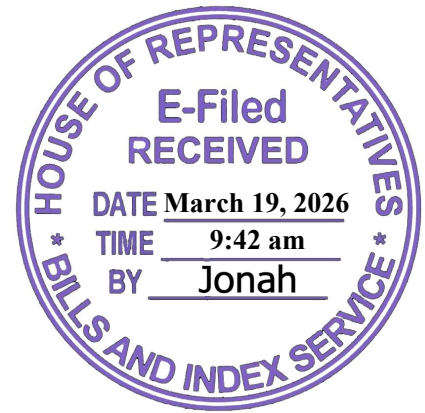


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 8710**

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE ACT
THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC VETERINARY CLINICS IN
EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL
SHELTER FACILITIES AND SERVICES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), there are twelve (12) million stray dogs in the Philippines while a single female cat can be responsible for as many as 30 cats in a year.¹

In recent years, several reports of animal cruelty have surfaced, including the tragic death of Killua, a golden retriever killed by a barangay tanod in Camarines Sur in 2025, allegedly after the dog chased him.

In 2025, a stray dog named Tiger in Zambales was stabbed to death for allegedly stealing meat. In 2012, over 260 pit bulls and aspins were found trapped in a dog fighting ring in Laguna. Twenty-five (25) of these dogs had to be euthanized due to severe injuries sustained from their time in the ring.² The same report also cited that in 2020, CARA Welfare Philippines reported 3,000 cases of animal abuses including beating, kicking and mutilating. The same organization also recorded 673 cases in 2024 with just eight (8) leading to legal action.

¹ “Pets, not pests.” Available at <https://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/opinion/pieces/904-pets-not-pests>

² Inside the never-ending fight against animal abuse in the Philippines. Available at <https://rollingstonephilippines.com/state-of-affairs/animal-rights-abuse-philippines/>

These figures show the stark reality that, despite existing shelters and animal welfare campaigns, many animals remain exposed to harsh environmental conditions, maltreatment, abandonment and subject of unscrupulous practices such as dog fighting, illegal selling and illegal breeding.

This bill seeks to reinforce the Animal Welfare Act and address gaps in its implementation. It aims to promote humane treatment of animals and ensure that they are provided with proper animal health services, decent habitat or homes, effective population management, and rehabilitation.

It also seeks to institutionalize funding support for shelters so that rescued animals may be rehabilitated and cared for in a safe place.

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


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.



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

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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 “Public Veterinary Clinics and
2 Animal Shelter Development Act.”
3

4 Section. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect
5 and promote animal welfare; ensure humane treatment; prevent cruelty, neglect, and abandonment;
6 and promote responsible pet ownership, consistent with Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known
7 as the “Animal Welfare Act of 1998,” as amended by Republic Act No. 10631, and Republic Act
8 No. 9482, otherwise known as the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007.”
9

10 To operationalize this policy, the State shall strengthen local animal health services,
11 humane population management, rescue and shelter/pound systems, and the enforcement of animal
12 welfare standards through coordination among the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Bureau of
13 Animal Industry (BAI), concerned local government units (LGUs), and accredited animal welfare
14 partners.
15

1 Section. 3. *Establishment of Public Veterinary Clinics.* — Every city and municipality shall
2 establish or provide access to a Public Veterinary Clinic: Provided, That municipalities may
3 establish a joint or shared clinic with adjoining LGUs, or enter into partnerships with accredited
4 animal shelters and animal control facilities, subject to standards to be provided in the
5 implementing rules and regulations.
6

7 A Public Veterinary Clinic operated by an LGU shall be duly registered with the BAI and
8 issued a Certificate of Registration prior to operation, in accordance with Republic Act No.
9 8485. Such registration and operation shall be subject to applicable safety, sanitary, and animal
10 welfare standards and the implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to law.
11

12 The Certificate of Registration shall be valid for one (1) year and may be renewed annually
13 upon compliance with the requirements that the facilities are adequate, clean, and sanitary, and
14 will not be used for nor cause pain and/or suffering to animals.
15

16 The Public Veterinary Clinic shall provide essential free or low-cost services, which may
17 include consultation, treatment of minor illnesses or injuries, vaccination support, and spay/neuter
18 (kapon) services, subject to guidelines to be issued by the DA-BAI.
19

20 The clinic shall maintain a registry of pet owners and pets served, including services
21 rendered, subject to applicable data privacy and record-keeping guidelines, for purposes of
22 program improvement and policy-making.
23

24 Monitoring and compliance audits shall be conducted in accordance with BAI standards
25 and protocols, with periodic inspection and such other measures as may be provided in the IRR.
26

27 Section. 4. *Local Animal Shelter and Pound Facilities.* — Every city and municipality shall
28 establish and maintain an animal shelter and/or pound facility for stray, roaming, or impounded
29 animals, consistent with Republic Act No. 9482. Barangays shall provide support through
30 reporting, first-response rescue, and designated receiving/holding areas, or such other
31 arrangements as may be provided in the IRR.
32

33 The facility shall maintain records of rescued or impounded animals and shall post notices
34 through accessible means, including official social media pages, to notify possible owners.
35

36 For purposes of this Act, “animals with indicia of ownership” refer to animals with any of
37 the following: (a) collar, tag, or other visible identifier; (b) microchip; (c) current registration
38 record with the LGU; or (d) other comparable proof as may be recognized in the IRR.
39

1 Owners may redeem impounded animals with indicia of ownership within ten (10) calendar
2 days from posting of notice, upon presentation of sufficient proof of ownership and compliance
3 with registration and responsible pet ownership requirements.
4

5 Unregistered, stray, or unvaccinated dogs shall be impounded and disposed of in
6 accordance with Section 9 of Republic Act No. 9482, including the rule that impounded dogs not
7 claimed after three (3) days from the dog pound shall be placed for adoption to qualified persons,
8 with the assistance of an animal welfare NGO when feasible, or otherwise disposed of in any
9 manner authorized, subject to the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended.
10

11 Unclaimed animals after the redemption period shall be made available for adoption or
12 rehoming, subject to screening standards to be determined by the Local Veterinary Office and the
13 IRR.
14

15 The facility shall coordinate with the Local Veterinary Office or Public Veterinary Clinic
16 for veterinary care, inoculations, rehabilitation, and humane population management.
17

18 A “no-kill” policy shall be pursued as a general rule: Provided, That humane euthanasia
19 may be undertaken only when medically or legally warranted and in accordance with standards
20 under existing law and applicable regulations, and consistent with the prohibition under Republic
21 Act No. 9482 on electrocution as a euthanasia procedure. Any euthanasia shall be subject to the
22 pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, and shall be carried out only through
23 humane procedures consistent with applicable standards.
24

25 Consistent with Republic Act No. 8485, the LGU shall conduct monitoring and
26 enforcement support to prevent and address illegal selling, illegal breeding, and similar prohibited
27 acts, in coordination with duly deputized or designated animal welfare enforcement officers.
28

29 Section. 5. *Sanctions.* — Any person who commits animal cruelty, neglect, or
30 abandonment, or otherwise violates Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, shall be penalized in
31 accordance with said law and other applicable laws.
32

33 Section. 6. *Appropriations.* — The funding necessary for the implementation of this Act
34 shall be charged against available appropriations of the concerned LGUs. Thereafter, such sums
35 as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
36 budgets of the concerned LGUs, subject to applicable budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules.
37

38 Section. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The DA, through the BAI, in
39 consultation with concerned agencies, LGUs, and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the IRR
40 within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

1
2 Section. 8. *Separability Clause*. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional
3 or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
4

5 Section. 9. *Repealing Clause*. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts
6 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
7

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

11 Approved.
12