



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8771



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9482, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE 'ANTI-RABIES ACT OF 2007,' TO STRENGTHEN RABIES
PREVENTION, PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP, AND PRESCRIBE
PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The rapid advancement of digital technology has ushered in new forms of communication, creativity, and information sharing. Yet, alongside these developments, a technological phenomenon has emerged. Artificially generated and manipulated digital media, commonly referred to as deepfakes, can inflict grave harm upon individuals and institutions.

Deepfake technology uses sophisticated artificial intelligence to fabricate or manipulate audio, video, and image content. These false representations appear authentic. While such technology may have legitimate applications in entertainment and digital production, its misuse has become increasingly widespread and alarming.

In recent years, the internet, particularly social media platforms, has become inundated with fabricated and manipulated digital materials. The creation and dissemination of these deceptive contents has become rampant. Many individuals have suffered humiliation, reputational injury, harassment, and psychological distress because of maliciously generated deepfake materials. These were often circulated online without their consent.

The harmful effects of such content extend far beyond individual victims. The proliferation of fabricated digital media erodes public trust in information and institutions. False narratives amplified through manipulated media can disrupt public discourse. They can mislead citizens and even impair the orderly functioning of government institutions.

Equally troubling is the impact of such deceptive materials upon the nation's youth and workforce. Exposure to manipulated media blurs the distinction between truth and falsehood. This undermines critical thinking and responsible digital engagement among young Filipinos. The relentless spread of misleading content across digital platforms distracts workers and diminishes productivity in an increasingly interconnected digital environment.

In the face of these realities, the law cannot remain indifferent. The State must respond with vigilance and foresight. It must ensure that emerging technologies are not weaponized to deceive, exploit, or harm the public.

This measure seeks to establish a coordinated national framework to combat malicious deepfake content. It authorizes deputies of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to assist in monitoring, identifying, and reporting of such materials across digital platforms. It also mandates coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology, the Philippine National Police, and the National Bureau of Investigation in the investigation and enforcement of relevant laws.

The measure further aligns enforcement with existing statutes such as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, the Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009, and the Data Privacy Act of 2012. This ensures the proposed legislation complements and strengthens the country's existing legal framework on cybercrime and digital privacy.

This Act represents a timely and necessary response to a rapidly evolving technological threat. It provides a practical and cost-effective mechanism by empowering existing institutions. The Act enables them to address the dangers posed by malicious deepfake technologies while safeguarding freedom of expression and due process.

When lies are made to look just like the truth, the law cannot stay still. We must protect truth, dignity, and public trust in the digital age with strong new laws.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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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 “**Strengthened Anti-Rabies and Responsible Pet Ownership Act.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is declared the policy of the State to protect public health by preventing and controlling communicable diseases transmitted by domestic and non-domestic animals, particularly rabies. The State recognizes the significant role of animals in society while emphasizing the need to safeguard human health from potential risks associated with animal-borne diseases.

The State likewise seeks to promote responsible pet ownership and the humane treatment of animals. Pet owners are encouraged to ensure proper care, vaccination, and supervision of their animals in order to prevent harm to both humans and other animals.

Furthermore, the State is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of communities through the effective enforcement of public health and environmental standards. This includes the implementation of measures to maintain hygiene, prevent environmental degradation caused by animals, and encourage compliance with established laws and regulations related to animal management.

SECTION 3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007, is hereby amended to read follows:

“ **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

(a) *Bitten* refers to an act by which a ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** seizes, cuts or grips with its teeth so that the skin of a person has been wounded, pierced or scratched.

(b) *Xxx*.

(c) *Xxx*.

(d) ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** refers to ~~a common quadruped domestic animal belonging to the order carnivora (male or female), scientifically known as *canis familiaris*~~ **REFER TO DOMESTICATED ANIMALS, WHETHER MAMMALS, REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, BIRDS, OR OTHER SPECIES, THAT ARE KEPT BY HUMANS PRIMARILY FOR COMPANIONSHIP, RECREATION, OR HOUSEHOLD PURPOSES, RATHER THAN FOR COMMERCIAL FARMING, LABOR, OR WILDLIFE PURPOSES. THIS INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO: DOGS, CATS, RABBITS, BIRDS, AND SMALL MAMMALS COMMONLY KEPT IN HOMES OR RESIDENTIAL PREMISES.**

(e) *Euthanasia* refers to the process of painless death to ~~Dogs and other animals~~ **PET ANIMALS.**

(f) *Xxx*.

(g) *Owner* refers to any person keeping, harboring or having charge, care or control of a ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** including his/her representative.

(h) *Xxx*.

(i) *Xxx*.

(j) *Xxx*.

(k) *Xxx*.

(l) *Xxx*.

(m) *Rabies Vaccination of Dog* **PET ANIMAL** refers to the inoculation of a ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** with a Rabies vaccine by a licensed government or private veterinarian or trained individual under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The services of the said trained individual shall be limited only to Rabies Vaccination Injection in ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** and only during government mass vaccination campaigns.

(n) *Xxx*.

(o) *Xxx*.

(p) *Stray Dog* **PET ANIMAL** refers to any ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** leaving its Owner's place or premise and no longer under the effective control of the Owner.

(q) *Xxx.* ”

SECTION 4. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007, is hereby amended to read follows:

“SEC. 5. Responsibilities of Pet Owner. - All Pet Owners shall be required to:

(a) Have their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** regularly vaccinated against Rabies and maintain a registration card which shall contain all vaccinations conducted on their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL**, for accurate record purposes.

(b) Submit their ~~Dogs~~ **PET ANIMAL** for mandatory registration.

(c) Maintain control over their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** and not allow it to roam the streets or any Public Place without a leash **AND A TAG**.

(d) Be a responsible Owner by providing their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** with proper grooming, adequate food and clean shelter.

(e) Within twenty-four (24) hours, report immediately any ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** biting incident to the Concerned **LOCAL GOVERNMENT** Officials **OR AGENCY** for investigation or for any appropriate action and place such ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** under observation by a government or private veterinarian.

(f) Assist the ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** bite victim immediately and shoulder the medical expenses incurred and other incidental expenses relative to the victim's injuries.

(G) FACILITATE ACCESS TO POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP) FOR THE VICTIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH DOH PROTOCOLS.

(H) PROPERLY DISPOSE OF PET WASTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL SANITATION REGULATIONS.

(I) PREVENT PETS FROM CAUSING DAMAGE OR DEGRADATION TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY.

(J) ENSURE PETS DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS SUCH AS CONTAMINATION OF WATERWAYS OR PUBLIC SPACES.

(K) FAILURE TO COMPLY SHALL CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION SUBJECT TO FINES AND PENALTIES AS DETERMINED BY THE LGU IN COORDINATION WITH THE DOH AND DA.”

SECTION 5. Sections 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10 of Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007, is hereby amended to replace the word Dog to Pet Animal.

SECTION 6. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007, is hereby amended to read follows:

“SEC. 11. Penalties. -

(1) Pet Owners who fail or refuse to have their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** registered and immunized against Rabies shall be punished by a fine of ~~Two~~ **FIVE** thousand pesos (~~P2,000.00~~ **5,000.00**).

(2) Pet Owners who refuse to have their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** vaccinated against Rabies shall be liable to pay for the vaccination of both the Dog and the individuals Bitten by their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL**.

(3) Pet Owners who refuse to have their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** put under observation after said ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** has Bitten an individual shall be meted a fine of ~~Ten~~ **FIFTEEN** thousand pesos (~~P40,000.00~~ **15,000.00**).

(4) Pet Owners who refuse to have their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** put under observation and do not shoulder the medical expenses of the person Bitten by their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** shall be meted a fine of ~~Twenty-five~~ **THIRTY** thousand pesos (~~P25,000.00~~ **30,000.00**).

(5) Pet Owners who refuse to put leash on their ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** when they are brought outside the house shall be meted a fine of ~~Five-hundred~~ **TWO THOUSAND** pesos (~~P500.00~~ **2,000.00**) for each incident.

(6) An impounded ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** shall be released to its Owner upon payment of a fine of not less than ~~Five-hundred~~ **ONE THOUSAND** pesos (~~P500.00~~ **1,000.00**) but not more than ~~One~~ **FIVE** thousand pesos (~~P1,000.00~~ **5,000.00**) .

(7) Any person found guilty of trading ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** for meat shall be fined not less than ~~Five~~ **FIFTEEN** thousand pesos (~~P5,000.00~~ **15,000.00**) per ~~Dog~~ **PET ANIMAL** and subjected to imprisonment for one to four years.

(8) Any person found guilty of using electrocution as a method of euthanasia shall be fined not less than ~~Five~~ **FIFTEEN** thousand pesos (~~P5,000.00~~ **15,000.00**) per act and subject to imprisonment for one to four years.

(9) If the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately deported after service of sentence without any further proceedings.”

SECTION 7. *Authority of Barangay Officials to Capture Stray Pet Animals.* – Barangay officials, including duly authorized barangay tanods, within their jurisdiction, are hereby empowered to humanely perform the following acts:

- a) Turned over to the nearest local government unit (LGU) impounding facility, animal control center, or designated holding area;
- b) Properly record, including the date, location of capture, and identifiable features of the animal;
- c) Hold for a minimum period as may be prescribed under the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to allow the owner to claim the animal, subject to payment of corresponding fines and impounding fees;
- d) Provide with adequate food, water, and humane treatment while under custody;

- e) Subject to vaccination, observation, or other necessary veterinary measures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Health (DOH).

No barangay official or personnel shall employ cruel, inhumane, or injurious methods in the capture or handling of animals. Any violation of this provision shall be subject to appropriate administrative, civil, or criminal sanctions under existing laws.

The LGUs shall ensure that proper training is provided to barangay personnel involved in animal capture and handling, in coordination with the DA and other relevant agencies.

SECTION 8. *Public Education, Community Programs, and Information Dissemination.* - Local Government Units (LGUs), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), shall implement programs to promote responsible pet ownership, rabies prevention, hygiene, and environmental care caused by pets. These programs shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Conducting annual rabies prevention campaigns;
2. Implementing community vaccination drives;
3. Promoting responsible pet ownership, humane treatment of animals, and disease surveillance programs; and
4. Ensuring that relevant information is prominently displayed in conspicuous public places nationwide, including barangay halls and public offices, public markets, transportation terminals, parks, health centers, schools, and other community centers.

The information shall be updated regularly and made accessible to the public in formats that are easy to understand, including posters, brochures, digital displays, and public service announcements. Strict compliance with the programs and measures prescribed under this Act shall be considered by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with DOH and DA, as a criterion for the LGU's eligibility to receive the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) and other related awards or incentives.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days of effectivity, the DOH, DA, DILG, and LGUs, in consultation with stakeholders, shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectively implement this Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

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

Approved,