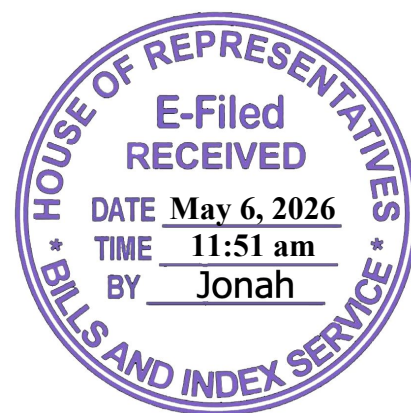




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 9126



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has been more than two decades since the enactment of Republic Act No. 8485, or the Animal Welfare Act of 1998, which laid down the foundation for the protection and promotion of animal welfare in the country. It was then further amended by Republic Act No. 101631 in 2012.

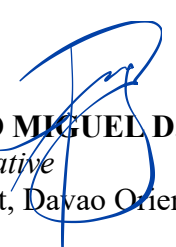
Unfortunately, there is an apparent disconnect between the intention behind the law, i.e. to deter acts of cruelty, maltreatment and negligence toward animals, and the penalties prescribed therein. Some may argue that the fines, which ranges from P30,000 to P100,000, are merely a slap on the wrist as they fail to effectively discourage repeat offenses.

This bill seeks to strengthen our policy on animal welfare protection by providing stricter penalties for animal cruelty. It also introduces an accessory penalty of a perpetual ban on owning any kind of animal for convicted offenders, to prevent recidivism.

In relation to the accessory penalty of perpetual ban, this bill also proposes the establishment of a National Animal Offender Registry. This will ease the monitoring of the implementation of this Act.

Animal welfare is not just a secondary concern; it is a reflection of our societal values. By enacting these stricter measures, we send a clear message that cruelty will no longer be tolerated and that the law will finally possess the necessary power to champion the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves.

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


CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9126

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ANIMAL WELFARE PROTECTION BY
INCREASING THE PENALTIES PRESCRIBED THEREIN, AND BY BANNING
THOSE CONVICTED OF ANIMAL CRUELTY FROM OWNING ANY KIND OF
ANIMALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 8485, AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10631, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998**

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

Section 1. Section 9 of **Republic Act No. 8485**, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 9. Any person who subjects any animal to cruelty, maltreatment or neglect shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment and/or fine, as indicated in the following graduated scale:

(1) **DEATH OF AN ANIMAL** - Imprisonment of **TWO (2) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** to **THREE (3) YEARS** and/or a fine **RANGING FROM One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) TO TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P250,000.00)**, if the animal subjected to cruelty, maltreatment or neglect dies;

(2) **GRAVE INJURY TO AN ANIMAL** - Imprisonment of one (1) year and one (1) day to **TWO (2) YEARS** and/or a fine **OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00)**, if the animal subjected to cruelty, maltreatment or neglect survives but is severely injured with loss of its natural faculty to survive on its own and needing human intervention to sustain its life; and

(3) **OTHER INJURY TO AN ANIMAL NOT CLASSIFIED AS GRAVE** - Imprisonment of six (6) months to one (1) year and/or a fine not exceeding **Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00)** for subjecting any animal

to cruelty, maltreatment or neglect but without causing its death or incapacitating it to survive on its own.

IN ADDITION, AS AN ACCESSORY PENALTY, THE CONVICTED OFFENDER SHALL BE PERPETUALLY BANNED FROM OWNING ANY KIND OF ANIMAL.

xxxB

Section 2. *Section 10 is hereby amended to read as follows:*

BSEC. 10. *xxx*

The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Animal Welfare:

"(1) xxx

"(2) xxx

(3) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN ACCESSIBLE NATIONAL ANIMAL OFFENDER REGISTRY, CONTAINING THE RELEVANT INFORMATION OF THOSE PERSONS CONVICTED UNDER THIS ACT; PROVIDED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL REGISTRY SHALL BE DONE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE CONCERNED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.B

Section 2. *All laws, executive orders, decrees, rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.*

Section 3. *This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.*

Approved,