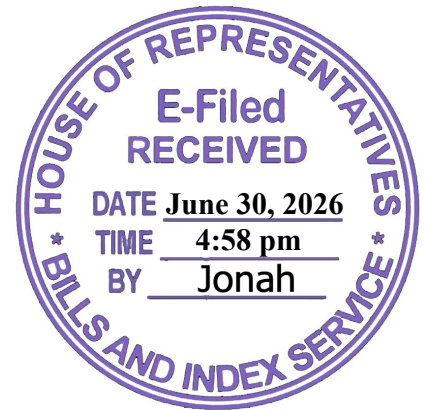


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9978



Introduced by Representative Jan “Atty. JP” D. Padiernos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

While Republic Act No. 8485 penalizes animal cruelty, the law lacks a localized, community-level enforcement mechanism to handle everyday violations. Consequently, animal welfare concerns, neighborhood pet disputes, and localized abuse cases are left to barangay officials who operate without authority, technical training, or administrative guidelines. This lack of local enforcement leads to neighborhood fights and illegal animal poisonings, while stalling city efforts to control rabies and manage stray populations.

This Bill seeks to address this gap by mandating the establishment of a Barangay Animal Welfare Desk (BAWD) in every barangay nationwide under the direct supervision of the Barangay Chairperson. The BAWD will serve as a frontline venue to mediate local pet-ownership disputes, maintain a community-level registry to track and report severe neglect or abuse, and act as a public health coordination hub for targeted rabies vaccinations and humane population control drives in partnership with municipal veterinarians. This measure mandates DILG training for appointed officers to ensure standardized implementation, thereby establishing clear local accountability, protecting public health, and strengthening neighborhood peace and order.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. Jan “Atty. JP” D. Padiernos
GP (GALING SA PUSO)
Partylist

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9978

Introduced by Representative Jan “Atty. JP” D. Padiernos

AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEDICATED BARANGAY ANIMAL WELFARE DESK (BAWD) IN ALL BARANGAYS NATIONWIDE TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY-LEVEL MEDIATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND PUBLIC HEALTH COORDINATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Barangay Animal Welfare Desk (BAWD) Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of all animals by creating localized mechanisms for enforcement, conflict resolution, and public health coordination.

The State recognizes that maintaining peace, order, and public health at the community level requires proactive, standardized management of animal-related concerns and the prevention of neighborhood conflicts arising therefrom.

SECTION 3. Mandated Establishment of the Barangay Animal Welfare Desk (BAWD). — Every barangay nationwide shall establish a dedicated Barangay Animal Welfare Desk (BAWD), which shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Barangay Chairperson.

SECTION 4. Functions of the BAWD. — The BAWD shall serve as the frontline community mechanism for animal welfare and shall perform the following operational functions:

- (a) Receive, log, and investigate community-level complaints regarding animal cruelty, maltreatment, and severe neglect, and escalate verified violations to appropriate law enforcement authorities;
- (b) Coordinate proactively with the city or municipal veterinarian for the targeted deployment of localized humane population controls and rabies vaccination drives;

(c) Act as the local administrative repository and registry for community caregivers and non-governmental organizations managing community-based animal welfare initiatives; and

(d) Mediate localized conflicts arising from pet ownership disputes and neighborhood stray animal disturbances to prevent civil friction, public disorders, and retaliatory violence or poisoning against animals.

SECTION 5. Mandatory Training and Capacity Building. — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and accredited animal welfare non-governmental organizations (NGOs), shall design and implement a mandatory training curriculum for appointed Barangay Animal Welfare Officers to ensure standardized, professional, and humane enforcement nationwide.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). — Within twelve (12) months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in close coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and the League of Barangays (*Liga ng mga Barangay*), shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for its effective implementation.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. — Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, is hereby modified accordingly. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.