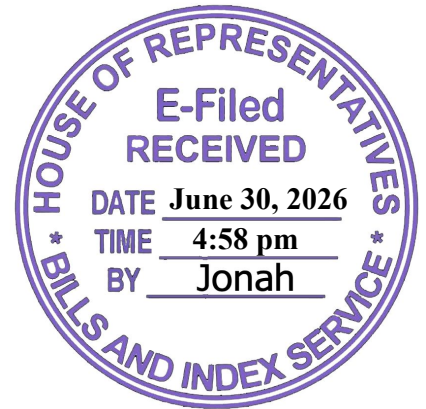


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9985



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For decades, our approach to stray animals has been trapped in a broken, costly cycle. Local governments constantly round up and euthanize street animals, yet our streets are never cleared, rabies remains a threat, and the stray population never drops.

This policy fails because of the "vacuum effect." Removing strays simply clears space for new, unsterilized animals to move in and breed. Taxpayers are essentially funding a costly, endless cycle that does not reduce the stray population. This bill breaks that cycle by institutionalizing the Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) as the primary national policy for stray management.

This Act aims to replace culling with management. By trapping, fixing, and vaccinating street animals before returning them to their territory, we create a stable, rabies-immune population that naturally shrinks over time without a single drop of blood spilled.

In addition, this Act also shields Registered Community Caregivers who feed and care for street animals at their own expense. Instead of facing harassment, fines, or unfair legal liabilities under local ordinances, these citizens will now receive statutory protection that validates their role in community safety.

We can no longer afford to mistake cruelty for control. It is time to replace an expensive, broken cycle of violence with compassion.

In view of the foregoing, 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. **9985**

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

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE HUMANE
TRAP-NEUTER-VACCINATE-RETURN (TNVR) STRATEGY FOR
COMMUNITY ANIMALS, RECOGNIZING THE STATUS OF REGISTERED
VOLUNTARY CAREGIVERS, AND AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Humane Stray Management and TNVR Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State shall adopt humane, non-lethal, and scientifically proven methods for stray animal population control. The Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) paradigm is hereby recognized as the primary national strategy to manage community animals, protect public health, and safeguard citizens who care for these animals.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. —

- (a) Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) – The process where free-roaming animals are humanely captured, surgically sterilized by a licensed veterinarian, vaccinated against rabies, marked via ear-tipping, and released back to their original location.
- (b) Community Animal – A free-roaming dog or cat with no single owner that is supported or tolerated by residents of a locality.
- (c) Registered Community Caregiver – Any individual or group registered with the local government unit (LGU) who voluntarily provides sustenance and care to community animals.
- (d) Ear-tipping – The surgical removal of a small portion of a stray animal's left ear during sterilization, serving as its permanent visual identification marker.

SECTION 4. Institutionalization of TNVR. — All cities and municipalities shall establish a localized TNVR Program through their respective Veterinary Offices, allocating annual funds for sterilization, rabies vaccines, and humane trapping equipment. Pound operations shall prioritize unsterilized community animals for entry into the TNVR program over euthanasia.

SECTION 5. Protected Status and Caregiver Protections. —

- (a) Ear-tipped community animals are legally protected. LGUs are prohibited from impounding or euthanizing them unless they are confirmed rabid, terminally ill, or pose an immediate physical danger to public safety.
- (b) Registered community caregivers shall not be legally classified as "owners" or "keepers" under local licensing caps or fees, and they possess the right to feed community animals sanitarily in designated zones. They are exempt from civil liability for isolated incidents involving these animals, provided they act in good faith.

SECTION 6. Amending Clause. — Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. It shall be unlawful for any person to torture any animal... or to kill any animal... except in the following cases:

xxx xxx xxx

(5) WHEN THE KILLING IS DONE FOR ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL; PROVIDED, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL CULLING OR EUTHANASIA BE APPLIED TO COMMUNITY ANIMALS THAT HAVE UNDERGONE THE TRAP-NEUTER-VACCINATE-RETURN (TNVR) PROGRAM AND BEAR THE PRESCRIBED EAR-TIP MARKER, UNLESS DETERMINED NECESSARY BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN FOR REASONS OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR SEVERE MEDICAL AFFLICTION.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL PRIORITIZE TNVR IN EXECUTING STRATIFIED POPULATION CONTROL ACTIONS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTIONS."

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from effectivity, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), in coordination with the DILG, DOH, and accredited animal welfare organizations, shall issue the guidelines for this Act.

SECTION 8. Appropriations, Separability, and Repealing Clauses. — Funding shall be sourced from current LGU and Department of Agriculture appropriations, and integrated into subsequent annual budgets. If any part of this Act is held invalid, remaining provisions stand. All laws or ordinances inconsistent herewith are modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. 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,