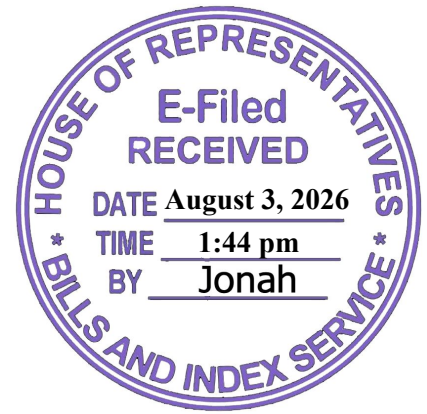


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10494



Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every day, we see stray dogs and cats roaming our streets and neighborhoods. Many of these animals have been abandoned or were born on the streets, left without proper food, shelter, and medical care. Their growing numbers have become a concern not only for animal welfare, but also for public health and community safety.

Unfortunately, many cities and municipalities still do not have public veterinary clinics or animal shelters that can provide affordable veterinary services, rescue abandoned animals, or implement effective spaying and neutering programs. Without these essential services, local governments are left with limited means to address the increasing stray animal population in a humane and sustainable manner.

This bill seeks to establish public veterinary clinics and animal shelters in every city and municipality. By making veterinary care more accessible, local government units will be better equipped to reduce the number of stray animals while improving animal welfare.

This measure benefits not only animals, but the entire community. Healthier and vaccinated animals help reduce the risk of diseases such as rabies. Effective population control means fewer stray animals on our streets. Public shelters provide a safe place for rescued animals instead of leaving them to suffer or pose risks to motorists and pedestrians. Most importantly, this bill encourages communities to treat animals with compassion while creating cleaner, safer, and healthier neighborhoods for everyone.

A community that cares for its animals is a community that values public health, safety, and compassion. By investing in local veterinary services and humane animal welfare programs, we also invest in the well-being of our communities.

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


JOEL R. CHUA
Representative, 3rd District, Manila

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Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING PUBLIC VETERINARY CLINICS AND ANIMAL SHELTERS IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, 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 "Public Veterinary Clinics and Local Animal Shelter Act."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the health and welfare of animals, promote responsible pet ownership, protect public health against diseases, and support local government units in providing accessible veterinary services and humane animal shelter facilities.

To this end, the State shall establish public veterinary clinics and develop animal shelter facilities in every city and municipality to ensure the availability of affordable veterinary care, animal rescue, rehabilitation, adoption, and population management programs.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act:

(a) Public Veterinary Clinic refers to a government-operated veterinary facility providing preventive, diagnostic, medical, surgical, and emergency veterinary services;

(b) Animal Shelter refers to a government-operated or government-accredited facility that provides temporary care, rescue, rehabilitation, treatment, and adoption services for abandoned, stray, neglected, surrendered, or rescued animals;

(c) Companion Animals refer to domesticated animals commonly kept by persons for companionship, including but not limited to dogs and cats;

(d) Local Government Unit (LGU) refers to provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays as defined under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991."

Section 4. Establishment of Public Veterinary Clinics. – Every city and municipality shall establish and maintain at least one (1) Public Veterinary Clinic.

Existing city or municipal veterinary offices may be upgraded and designated as Public Veterinary Clinics, provided they comply with the minimum standards prescribed under this Act.

Section 5. Functions of Public Veterinary Clinics. – Public Veterinary Clinics shall provide, among others, the following services:

- (a) Consultation and diagnosis;
- (b) Vaccination, including anti-rabies and other recommended immunizations;
- (c) Deworming and parasite control;
- (d) Spaying and neutering services;
- (e) Minor surgical procedures and emergency treatment;
- (f) Laboratory and diagnostic services, subject to available resources;
- (g) Issuance of veterinary certificates and health clearances;
- (h) Public education on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare;
- (i) Disease surveillance and reporting of zoonotic diseases; and

(j) Such other veterinary services as may be determined by the Department of Agriculture.

Section 6. Establishment of Local Animal Shelter Facilities. – Every city and municipality shall establish, maintain, or operate an Animal Shelter.

Adjacent municipalities may jointly establish and operate a common Animal Shelter through an inter-local cooperation agreement pursuant to the Local Government Code, subject to standards prescribed by the Department of Agriculture.

Section 7. Functions of Animal Shelters. – Animal Shelters shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Rescue and receive abandoned, stray, neglected, abused, surrendered, or confiscated animals;
- (b) Provide food, temporary housing, medical treatment, rehabilitation, and behavioral assessment;
- (c) Implement adoption and foster care programs;
- (d) Conduct spaying, neutering, vaccination, and microchipping programs where feasible;
- (e) Assist in the enforcement of animal welfare laws and ordinances;

(f) Maintain records of rescued, adopted, and euthanized animals, when euthanasia is authorized by law and performed only for humane reasons under accepted veterinary standards; and

(g) Coordinate with accredited animal welfare organizations and volunteer groups.

Section 8. Personnel. – Every Public Veterinary Clinic shall be staffed, at a minimum, as follows:

(a) One (1) licensed veterinarian;

(b) One (1) licensed veterinary para-professional or veterinary aide, where available;

(c) Administrative and support personnel as may be necessary.

LGUs may hire additional veterinarians and personnel depending on population, service demand, and available resources.

Section 9. Animal Welfare and Adoption Programs. – LGUs shall prioritize adoption, foster care, and responsible ownership programs to reduce stray animal populations.

Animal Shelters shall not engage in indiscriminate euthanasia. Euthanasia may only be undertaken in accordance with Republic Act No. 8485, as amended by Republic Act No. 10631, and accepted veterinary standards.

Section 10. Mobile Veterinary Services. – Cities and municipalities are encouraged to deploy mobile veterinary clinics to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, remote barangays, and underserved communities.

Section 11. Coordination with Animal Welfare Organizations. – LGUs may enter into partnerships with duly registered animal welfare organizations, veterinary schools, private veterinary clinics, and non-government organizations for the operation of veterinary missions, adoption drives, rescue operations, and public education campaigns.

Section 12. National Support. – The Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Animal Industry, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, shall:

(a) Formulate minimum standards for Public Veterinary Clinics and Animal Shelters;

(b) Provide technical assistance and capability-building;

(c) Develop standard treatment, rescue, and shelter protocols;

(d) Assist LGUs in disease surveillance and vaccination programs;

(e) Establish a national database on local veterinary clinics, animal shelters, and stray animal management.

Section 13. Local Veterinary and Animal Welfare Fund. – Every city and municipality shall allocate funds annually for the operation, maintenance, equipment, medicines, vaccines, personnel, and programs of the Public Veterinary Clinic and Animal Shelter.

LGUs may receive grants, donations, endowments, and other lawful contributions from private individuals, corporations, and local or international organizations, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Animal Industry, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Budget and Management, the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association, and recognized animal welfare organizations, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 15. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, the necessary funds shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and in the respective annual budgets of local government units.

Section 16. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 17. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 18. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.