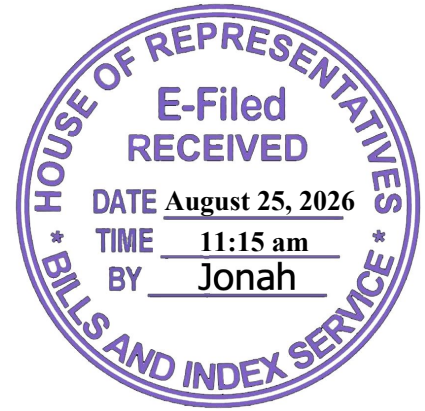


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10938



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ANTI-RABIES PROGRAM THROUGH
MANDATORY MICROCHIPPING OF PET DOGS AND CATS, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9482, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"ANTI-RABIES ACT OF 2007"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to strengthen the country's anti-rabies program under Republic Act No. 9482 or the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2007", by requiring the mandatory microchipping, in addition to mandatory registration, of pet cats and dogs, in order to ensure that stray dogs and cats are easily identified and returned to their owners as soon as they are caught to avoid possible infection from infected stray animals in the community.

While stray dogs are usually the main source of rabies infestation in a community, cats are proposed to be included for mandatory registration and microchipping for the simple reason that house cats that are left to roam around the community are vulnerable to being attacked by another animals that are possibly infected with rabies.

Unlike other progressive countries, the Philippines has remained to have one of the highest numbers of rabies cases in the world. The Department of Health (DOH) has reported that around 200 or 300 Filipinos die of rabies every year. One of the major reasons for this high rabies incidence in the country is the low compliance with the mandatory registration of dogs provided in RA 9482, hence, the difficulty on the part of government employees to return stray dogs to their rightful owners.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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

SECTION 1. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

“x x x

“(d) CAT REFERS TO THE DOMESTICATED SMALL CARNIVOROUS MAMMAL (MALE OR FEMALE) BELONGINNG TO THE FAMILY OF FELIDAE, SCIENTIFICALLY KOWN AS *FELIS CATUS*, USUALLY KEPT AS A PET;

“(E) [d] Dog refers to a common quadruped domestic animal belonging to the order carnivora (male or female), scientifically known as *canis familiaris*

“x x x

“(g) Owner refers to any person keeping, harboring or having charge, care or control of a Dog **OR A CAT** including his/her representative.

“(m) Rabies Vaccination of Dogs **AND CATS** refers to the inoculation of a Dog **AND A CAT** with 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 Dogs **AND CATS** and only during government mass vaccination campaigns.

“(R) **MICRO-CHIPPING REFERS TO THE ACT OF IMPLANTING A MICROCHIP ABOUT THE SIZE OF A GRAIN OF RICE SUBCUTANEOUSLY, USUALLY BETWEEN THE SHOULDER BLADES AT THE BACK OF THE PET’S NECK AS A MEANS OF PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION.**”

SECTION 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9482 is hereby amended as follows:

“SEC. 5. *Responsibilities of Pet Owner.* – All Pet Owners are required to:

“x x x

“(b) Submit their Dogs **AND CATS** for mandatory registration **AND MICROCHIPPING AT THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL VETERINARY OR AGRICULTURE OFFICE IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ARE ENCODED:**

- 1. NAME OF THE PET, BREED, SEX, COLOR, AND OTHER VITAL INFORMATION;**
- 2. THE OWNER’S NAME, ADDRESS, AND CONTACT DETAILS;**
- 3. DATE OF RABIES VACCINATION AND EXPIRATION;**
- 4. VACCINES ADMINISTERED; AND**
- 5. NAME AND SIGNATURE OF VETERINARIAN.**

“IN CASE OF CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OR DEATH OF THE REGISTERED AND MICROCHIPPED DOG OR CAT, THE OWNER SHALL INFORM THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL VETERINARY OR AGRICULTURE OFFICE WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS FROM THE CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OR DEATH OF SUCH PET.”

SECTION 3. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9482 is hereby amended as follows:

“Sec. 11. Penalties. –

(1) Pet Owners who fail or refuse to have their dog **OR CAT** registered, **MICROCHIPPED, AND** immunized against Rabies shall be punished by a fine of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00)** [Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00)];”

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall thereby remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, and executive issuances or parts thereof which are contrary to or consistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,