

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11010**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to impose higher penalties for acts of animal cruelty, maltreatment, and neglect; permanently prohibit persons convicted of violations under Republic Act (RA) No. 8485, otherwise known as the “*Animal Welfare Act of 1998*”, as amended, from owning animals; and establish a National Animal Offender Registry under the Department of Agriculture.

In February 2025, public outrage followed the discovery of a dead dog inside a government-run dog pound in Masbate, prompting renewed calls for stronger accountability and animal welfare protections¹. In March 2025, the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) likewise called for stronger enforcement following the fatal stabbing of a dog in Subic, Zambales. These incidents shows the challenges in reporting and prosecuting animal cruelty cases, particularly due to weak enforcement and limited public awareness of legal remedies². Highly publicized cases of animal cruelty shared on social media have further stressed the need for stronger safeguards. “*Tiktok*”, a dog from Negros Occidental, was shot multiple times with arrows, while “*Axle*”, an American Bully from Mountain Province, was brutally beaten and killed after allegedly urinating on the perpetrator³.

These cases show the continuing need to strengthen the country’s legal framework on animal welfare and ensure that such acts of cruelty are met with penalties commensurate with their severity. While RA No. 8485, as amended, prescribes criminal penalties for acts of animal cruelty, its existing safeguards remain limited in preventing convicted offenders from gaining access to animals in the

¹ Barcelona, W. (2025, February 13). Poe slams alleged animal abuse in Masbate, sees need for stronger laws. Philippine News Agency. Accessed from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1243994>. Accessed in June , 2026.

² Serquiña, M. (2025, March 27). Animal cruelty is a crime, here’s what you should do to stop it. GMA News Online. Accessed from: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/940789/animal-cruelty-paws-tips/story/>. Accessed in July 6, 2026.

³ Serquiña, M. (2025, December 18). Justice pursued: Rap filed for dog’s death in Mountain Province. GMA News Online. Accessed from: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/970080/charges-dog-death-mountain-province/story/>. Accessed in July 6, 2026.

future.

The proposed measure increases the penalties for animal cruelty to ensure that the punishment reflects the gravity of the offense and strengthens its deterrent effect. It also permanently prohibits convicted offenders from owning animals and establishes a National Animal Offender Registry to enable law enforcement agencies, regulatory authorities, animal shelters, breeders, rescue organizations, and other authorized stakeholders to verify a person's history of animal welfare violations.

A nation's compassion is measured not only by how it treats its people, but also by the mercy it extends to those without a voice. Animals depend entirely on human conscience for their protection, and when the law allows convicted abusers to regain access to them without meaningful safeguards, innocent lives remain vulnerable to repeated cruelty.

As stewards of the environment and of creatures that cannot protect themselves, we have a duty to ensure that cruelty has no place in a civilized society. Advocating for the welfare of animals is not merely an act of kindness, but is a reflection of our collective commitment to justice and humanity.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11010**

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR AND BANNING THOSE CONVICTED
OF ANIMAL CRUELTY FROM OWNING ANIMALS, STRENGTHENING
ANIMAL WELFARE PROTECTION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANIMAL WELFARE
ACT OF 1988, AS AMENDED

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, as amended by Republic Act No. 10631, otherwise known as the “*Animal Welfare Act of 1988*” is hereby further 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 [one (1) year and six (6) months and one (1) day] **TWO (2) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY** to [two (2) years] **THREE (3) YEARS** and/or a fine [not exceeding] **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 [one (1) year and six (6) months] **TWO (2) YEARS** and/or a fine [not exceeding Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)] **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.

“x x x

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

“SEC. 10. x x x

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

“(1) x x x

“(2) x x x

“(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.

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,