

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11011**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a Public Veterinary Clinic in every city and municipality in the country. It aims to provide preventive, diagnostic, curative, and emergency animal health services, strengthen disease surveillance and response, promote responsible pet ownership, support livestock and poultry raisers, and advance animal welfare as an essential component of public health and food security.

Despite the passage of Republic Act (RA) No. 8485, otherwise known as the “*Animal Welfare Act of 1988*”, as amended; and RA No. 9482, otherwise known as the “*Anti-Rabies Act of 2007*”, access to veterinary services remains uneven across the country. Many municipalities still lack permanent veterinary offices, adequate facilities, and sufficient veterinary personnel, leaving pet owners, farmers, and livestock raisers with limited access to essential animal health services. The Department of Health reported two hundred and sixty (260) human rabies cases from January to September 2025, with ninety-five percent (95%) of infections involving animals that were either unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status¹. Likewise, veterinary experts have emphasized that many municipalities continue to operate without permanent veterinarians, making sustained vaccination campaigns, disease surveillance, and animal health planning difficult to implement effectively².

The proposed measure establishes fully operational public veterinary clinics in every city and municipality to expand vaccination and sterilization programs, improve disease surveillance and emergency response, enhance animal rescue and welfare services, provide technical assistance to livestock and poultry producers, and institutionalize accessible veterinary care as a regular local government service. It also reinforces local preparedness against zoonotic diseases while promoting healthier communities and protecting agricultural productivity.

¹Montemayor, M. (2025, September 29). *DOH pushes for responsible pet ownership as rabies cases in PH hit 260*. Philippine News Agency. Accessed from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1259841>. Accessed on July 6, 2026.

² Varcas, M. (2026, March 5). *Experts push for municipal veterinary offices bill to curb rabies cases*. Philippine Star-Business World. Accessed from: <https://bworldonline.com/health/2026/03/05/734549/>. Accessed on July 6, 2026.

Animals enrich families, sustain livelihoods, and contribute to the nation's food security, yet countless Filipinos continue to struggle to obtain even the most basic veterinary care because these services remain unavailable or financially out of reach in many communities. Every missed vaccination, untreated illness, or delayed response to disease increases the risk to both animal and human lives and places greater economic burdens on households and local governments. Establishing public veterinary clinics throughout the country transforms animal healthcare into an essential public service that protects families, strengthens rural economies, safeguards the nation's food supply, and promotes a more compassionate and healthier society.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC VETERINARY CLINIC IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY IN THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING FOR THEIR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Animal Medical Center Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of every animal, recognize their intrinsic value, and ensure that their basic health and safety needs are adequately met. Towards this end, the State shall establish and strengthen accessible and affordable animal health and veterinary services in all local government units nationwide, thereby contributing to public health, responsible pet ownership, and a humane society.

SEC. 3. *Establishment.* – There shall be established, operated, and continuously maintained a public veterinary clinic in every city and municipality in the country. These clinics shall be under the direct control and supervision of the respective city or municipal local government unit (LGU), in consultation and coordination with the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI).

SEC. 4. *Provision of Facilities and Equipment.* – The concerned city or municipal LGU shall provide an adequate, accessible, and suitable lot or space where the public veterinary clinic shall be constructed or established. The clinics shall be equipped with essential machines, equipment, instruments, and supplies necessary for providing comprehensive basic veterinary services.

SEC. 5. *Functions and Services.* – The public veterinary clinics shall perform functions and provide services including, but not limited to:

- a. Provide routine vaccinations (e.g., anti-rabies, distemper) and deworming services;

- b. Conduct spay and neuter programs for pet population control;
- c. Offer basic veterinary consultations, diagnoses, and medical treatments for common animal illnesses;
- d. Perform minor surgical procedures;
- e. Assist in the control and prevention of zoonotic diseases in coordination with local health offices;
- f. Conduct animal welfare awareness and responsible pet ownership campaigns;
- g. Maintain a database of registered pets and vaccinated animals within the LGU's jurisdiction;
- h. Support, alongside the Municipal Agriculturist, farmers and livestock and poultry raisers with technical assistance and health management programs;
- i. Provide basic emergency care for animals; and
- j. Coordinate with local animal welfare organizations and law enforcement for animal rescue and cruelty cases.

SEC. 6. *Organizational Structure and Staffing.* – The local chief executive shall appoint a qualified Chief Veterinarian to head the public veterinary clinic, who shall have the necessary professional qualifications and experience as prescribed by the Civil Service Commission and the Professional Regulation Commission. The Chief Veterinarian shall render full-time service and be responsible for the clinic's overall administration and operation. The local chief executive shall also appoint the necessary veterinary medical, technical, and administrative personnel and staff, proportionate to the needs of the LGU and in accordance with relevant civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 7. *Design, Policies, Terms and Conditions.* – The LGU shall prepare the design and layout of the clinic structure in consultation with the DA-BAI.

The LGU shall also formulate and implement appropriate local policies, guidelines, fees (if any, for non-indigent cases, and subject to LGU ordinances), and terms and conditions relative to the efficient operation and maintenance of the public veterinary clinic, ensuring accessibility and affordability of services.

SEC. 8. *National Government Support.* – The National Government, through the Department of Agriculture (DA), shall extend technical, financial, and material assistance to LGUs for the effective operation of municipal veterinary offices. In cases of animal disease outbreaks and other public animal health emergencies, the DA shall, in coordination with the concerned LGUs, immediately mobilize

emergency funds, personnel, vaccines, equipment, and other resources necessary for containment, prevention, and eradication efforts.

The DA shall likewise provide continuing capacity-building, surveillance support, and access to diagnostic facilities to strengthen local preparedness and response systems.

SEC. 9. *Funding.* – For the initial establishment and construction or renovation of public veterinary clinics, an initial appropriation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act for the ensuing fiscal year following the approval of this Act. This initial funding shall be allocated as a subsidy from the National Government, through the Department of Agriculture, to assist cities and municipalities in meeting the capital outlay requirements for these facilities.

The city or municipal local government unit shall primarily be responsible for providing the necessary funds for the continuous operation, maintenance, and personnel services of their respective public veterinary clinics. Such funds shall be included in their annual regular appropriations. The Department of Agriculture may provide supplementary financial assistance or technical support for specific programs (e.g., mass vaccination, spay/neuter drives) as part of its regular mandate.

SEC. 10. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* – The DA-BAI, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and relevant professional organizations, shall establish a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the establishment, operation, and effectiveness of the public veterinary clinics. This system shall ensure compliance with national standards, promote best practices, and facilitate continuous improvement of animal health services nationwide.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the DA-BAI, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and such other relevant agencies and professional organizations, shall prepare and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 12. *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. 13. *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. 14. *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,