

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

21 FEB - 4 2025

SENATE

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 522

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance on FEB - 4 2025.

Re: **Senate Bill No. 2975**

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2054 and 2458.

Sponsor: **Senator Cynthia Villar**

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance to which were referred **Senate Bill No. 2054**, introduced by **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**, entitled:

"AN ACT
REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10631, PROVIDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE
REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ANIMAL WELFARE BUREAU
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO
INSTITUTIONALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE AND GOVERN ITS OPERATION AND
ENFORCEMENT

and **Senate Bill No. 2458**, introduced by **Senators Grace Poe, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, and Joel Villanueva**, entitled:

"AN ACT
STRENGTHENING ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS, ENACTING A
REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT, THEREBY REPEALING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10631, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES"

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached Senate Bill No. 2975 prepared by the Committees entitled:

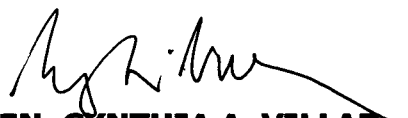
**"AN ACT
STRENGTHENING ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS, ENACTING A
REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT, THEREBY REPEALING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10631, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2054 and 2458, with Senators Tulfo, Poe, Binay, Villanueva, and C. Villar as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairpersons:

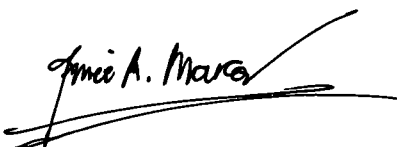
SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.
Committee on Civil Service, Government
Reorganization and Professional Regulation


SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR
Committee on Agriculture, Food and
Agrarian Reform

SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN
Committee on Ways and Means


SEN. GRACE POE
Committee on Finance

Vice-Chairpersons:

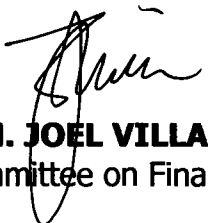

SEN. IMEE R. MARCOS
Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian
Reform; and Finance


SEN. RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA
Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian
Reform; and Finance


SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO
Committees on Civil Service, Government
Reorganization and Professional Regulation;
and Finance

SEN. LOREN LEGARDA
Committee on Finance


may Amend
SEN. CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE T. GO
Committee on Finance


SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA
Committee on Finance


SEN. JOSEPH VICTOR "JV" G. EJERCITO
Committee on Finance
Deputy Majority Leader

SEN. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Committee on Finance

SEN. MARK A. VILLAR
Committee on Finance
Deputy Majority Leader


SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS
Committee on Finance
Deputy Minority Leader

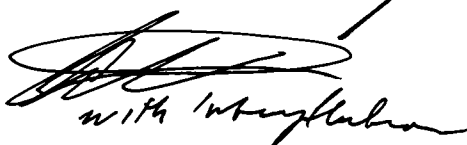
Members:


SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

SEN. MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

SEN. RAFFY T. TULFO

SEN. ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA



with Interglusion

SEN. ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

Ex Officio Members:



SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senate President Pro-Tempore



SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO
Majority Leader



SEN. AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III
Minority Leader

HON. FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO
Senate President

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

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SENATE
S. No. 2975

21 FEB -4 1987

FILE

(in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2054 and 2458)

Prepare and submitted jointly by the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance with Senators Tulfo, Poe, Binay, Villanueva, and C. Villar as authors thereof

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS, ENACTING A REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT, THEREBY REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10631, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER I

TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

1 **Section. 1. Title.** -This Act shall be known as the "The Revised Animal Welfare
2 Act".

3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the State's policy to protect life, liberty,
4 and property which includes the promotion of animal welfare by establishing a system
5 of supervision and regulation to ensure humane treatment in all aspects of the
6 keeping, maintaining, handling, transporting, breeding, training, treating, and use of
7 animals. Good animal welfare involves adherence to the five basic freedoms of animals
8 namely:

9 (1) Freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition;

10 (2) Freedom from physical discomfort and pain;

11 (3) Freedom from injury and disease;

1 (4) Freedom to express normal behaviors; and

2 (5) Freedom from fear and distress.

3 **Sec. 3. Coverage.** - This Act shall apply to all programs, activities, and
4 undertakings of individuals, corporations, associations, organizations, or entities,
5 including but not limited to animal producers, small-hold farmers, private entities, or
6 government agencies, that:

7 a. Handle, breed, train, keep, care for, transport, exhibit, display, use,
8 or otherwise interact with any animals, whether as pets, livestock, wildlife,
9 or animals used for education, entertainment, or show; or

10 b. Own, operate, or maintain any facility that interacts with animals.

11 **Sec. 4. Objectives.** - The State shall promote the welfare of all animals by
12 establishing rules, regulations, guidelines, and standards and endeavor to achieve the following
13 objectives:

14 a. To protect and promote animal welfare by providing rules, regulations,
15 guidelines, and standards in the establishment and operation of animal
16 facilities, transportation, and the like;

17 b. To establish welfare guidelines and standards in the use, treating, breeding,
18 maintaining, keeping, and training of all animals;

19 c. To protect and promote animal health through the maintenance of adequate,
20 clean, and sanitary facilities used in the keeping, breeding, treating, and
21 training of animals;

22 d. To promote responsible pet ownership through education and information
23 dissemination;

24 e. To regulate the operation and maintenance of animal facilities or any
25 establishment where animals are kept for whatever reason or purpose;

26 f. To formulate rules and regulations that will ensure the promotion of animal
27 welfare in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of any pet shop,
28 kennel, national or local government pound, shelter, slaughterhouse, veterinary
29 clinic, veterinary hospital, stockyard, corral, stud farm, or stock farm or zoo for
30 the breeding, raising, treatment, sale or trading, or training of animals;

- 1 g. To establish inter-agency, multi-sectoral, and local government cooperation for
2 the promotion and protection of animal welfare;
- 3 h. To create an agency and establish an organizational structure that
4 will effectively implement the provisions of this Act and all laws relevant to it;
- 5 i. To promote public awareness and concern for caring for animals and
6 their welfare.

7 **Sec. 5. *Animal Welfare Principles.*** - Animal welfare standards, practices,
8 policies, and regulations must be based on the following principles:

- 9 a. Decisions regarding animal care, use, and welfare shall be made by
10 Balancing scientific knowledge and professional judgment with consideration
11 of ethical and societal values;
- 12 b. Animals must be provided water, food, proper handling, health care, and
13 an environment appropriate to their care and use, with thoughtful
14 consideration for their species-typical biology and behavior;
- 15 c. Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize fear, pain, stress,
16 and suffering; Conservation and management of animal populations should
17 be humane, socially responsible, and scientifically prudent;
- 18 d. Protection of animal habitat is an animal welfare consideration;
- 19 e. Consider the five basic freedoms of animals:
20 (1) Freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition;
21 (2) Freedom from physical discomfort and pain;
22 (3) Freedom from injury and disease;
23 (4) Freedom to conform to essential behavioral patterns; and
24 (5) Freedom from fear and distress.
- 25 f. Animals shall be treated with respect and dignity throughout their lives
26 and, when necessary, provided with a humane death.

27 **Sec. 6. *Definitions.*** -As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- 28 (1) *Animals* refer to domesticated vertebrate and invertebrate species under the
29 control of man, which may be food-producing, companion, laborers, aquatic, or
30 laboratory. The term excludes humans;

- 1 (2) *Animal Welfare* pertains to the physical and psychological well-being of animals.
2 It includes, but is not limited to, the avoidance of abuse, maltreatment, cruelty,
3 and exploitation of animals by humans by maintaining appropriate standards
4 of accommodation, feeding, and general care, the prevention and treatment
5 of disease, and the assurance of freedom from fear, distress, harassment and
6 unnecessary discomfort and pain and allowing animals to express natural behavior;
- 7 (3) *Animal Facility* refers to any facility, structure, or premises used for the purpose
8 of keeping, caring, breeding, rearing, holding, gaming, training, trading,
9 treating, or exhibiting animals, including but not limited to farms, zoos, aviaries,
10 apiaries, kennels, race tracks, cockpits, pet shops, shelter, national or local
11 government pounds, animal rescue centers, airports, and seaports quarantine
12 stations, animal holding facilities, stables, livestock markets, stockyards, corrals,
13 stud farms, stock farms, slaughterhouses, aquaria, laboratories, veterinary clinics,
14 and veterinary hospitals;
- 15 (4) *Animal fighting venture* refers to any event, show, exhibition, program, or
16 other activity that involves a fight conducted or to be conducted between
17 two or more animals for purposes of sport, wagering, amusement, or
18 entertainment;
- 19 (5) *Animal Welfare Enforcement Officer* refers to the Philippine National Police,
20 National Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies, citizens'
21 groups, community organizations, and other volunteer members of NGOs, and
22 Peoples organizations designated as such enforcement officers by the Secretary of
23 Agriculture;
- 24 (6) *Bureau* refers to the Animal Welfare Bureau;
- 25 (7) *Captive Animals* refers to animals that are confined for educational or recreational
26 purposes in places such as but not limited to zoos, sanctuaries, rescue
27 centers, sea or ocean facility, and the like;
- 28 (8) *Department* refers to the Department of Agriculture;
- 29 (9) *Director* refers to the individual in charge of the Animal Welfare Bureau;
- 30 (10) *Euthanasia* refers to the Bureau approved process or method of painless death

of animals;

(11) *Keeper* refers to any person who owns, possesses, or has control or custody over an animal;

(12) *Local Government Unit (LGU)* refers to the Province, City, or Municipalities;

(13) *Pets* refers to documented or otherwise, or domestic animals intended for companionship, therapy, seeing and hearing guides, recreation and value formation, and breeding such as but not limited to dogs, cats, fishes, rabbits, rodents, reptiles, and birds that are either acquired locally or through importation under government rules and regulations;

(14) *Person* refers to any individual, corporation, company, business, enterprise, association, partnership, syndicate, trust, or other entity;

(15) *Reporter* refers to any person who reports a suspected violation of any provision of this Act to the proper authorities;

(16) *Secretary* refers to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;

(17) *Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP)* refers to a legal action filed to harass, vex, exert undue pressure, or stifle any legal recourse that any person, institution, or the government has taken or may take in the enforcement of this Act;

(18) *Transport Facility* refers to any transportation public or private, whether air, water, or land including tricycles and the like used to transport animals to a particular destination;

(19) *Wild animal* refers to any individual of a species that is not normally domesticated in the Philippines, including those in captivity under the control of a person.

Furthermore, the Bureau may define such other terms as may be used in the implementation of this Act;

CHAPTER II

THE ANIMAL WELFARE BUREAU

1 **Sec. 7. *Animal Welfare Bureau*** - is hereby created as a line bureau under
2 the Department of Agriculture. It shall establish regional, provincial and municipal offices
3 as may be appropriate and necessary to carry out effectively and efficiently the provisions
4 of this Act.

5 **Sec. 8. *Functions of the Bureau.*** - As a line bureau, it shall have the following
6 functions:

- 7 (1) Formulate policies, guidelines, standards, rules, and regulations for the
8 effective implementation of this Act;
- 9 (2) Provide minimum standards on the appropriate food, water, and shelter for
10 each species of pet and animals depending on the age, breed, size, and special
11 needs thereof;
- 12 (3) In consultation with the Land Transportation Office, Land Transportation
13 Franchising Regulatory Board, Civil Aeronautics Board, the Maritime Industry,
14 other transport regulating body or agencies, experts, and animal welfare
15 groups, set a species-specific standard for transportation of animals, including
16 definitions for cruel confinement and restraint during transport, appropriate
17 designs for transport cages and facilities, restraint types, provision of food and
18 water, ventilation, and protection from extreme weather conditions;
- 19 (4) Establish an emergency animal response and rescue system to appropriately
20 respond in cases of calamities such as but not limited to floods, earthquakes,
21 and other natural disasters;
- 22 (5) Promulgate guidelines for humane slaughter of animals, in consultation with
23 the National Meat Inspection Service, local government units and other
24 concerned government agencies;
- 25 (6) Implement a system for inspection of animal facilities to ensure compliance
26 with animal welfare standards and regulations;
- 27 (7) Monitor compliance of the local government units with animal welfare
28 programs, standards, rules and regulations;
- 29 (8) Ensure proper coordination with non-government organizations, people's
30 organizations and academe for the strict implementation of the rules and

1 regulations issued;

2 (9) Formulate guidelines and qualifications related to research and testing on
3 animals;

4 (10) To issue, suspend, cancel permits or certifications pursuant to the purposes
5 of this Act;

6 (11) To levy and collect fees for registration, certification, inspection and
7 monitoring system and other fees as the Bureau may deem necessary for the
8 effective implementation of this Act;

9 (12) Keep records and documents pertaining to animal welfare in the country as
10 well as the maintenance of surveillance and management information system
11 on animal welfare;

12 (13) Create a system and guidelines for the determination or approval of
13 applications of certifications, authorizations, and permits necessary for the
14 establishment, maintenance, and operation of animal facilities, as well as to
15 issue said certifications, authorizations, and permits and to collect associated
16 fees;

17 (14) To call upon any government agencies for assistance consistent with its
18 powers, duties, and responsibilities for the purpose of ensuring the effective
19 and efficient implementation of this Act and the rules and regulations
20 promulgated thereunder, and it shall be the duty of such government agencies
21 to assist the Bureau when called upon for assistance using any available fund
22 in its budget for the purpose; and

23 (15) Perform such other duties and responsibilities which are necessarily to
24 achieve the purposes of this Act.

25 **Sec. 9. *Composition of the Bureau.*** - As a line bureau, the Bureau shall be
26 headed by a Director and assisted by two (2) Assistant Directors who shall supervise the
27 administrative and technical services of the Bureau.

28 The Director must possess demonstrated knowledge, training, empathy,
29 compassion, and experience in the field of agriculture, biology, animal husbandry,
30 veterinary science, veterinary medicine or other similar discipline.

Sec. 10. *Personnel and Staffing Pattern.* - Notwithstanding the provisions of existing laws, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall require the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), as an interim Director of the Bureau to submit within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act their recommendation on the personnel and staffing pattern of the Bureau and to submit the same to the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission.

CHAPTER III

THE ANIMAL WELFARE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Sec. 11. *Deputization of Animal Welfare Enforcement Officers.* — The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall deputize animal welfare enforcement officers from non-government organizations, citizens' groups, community organizations, and other volunteers who have undergone the necessary training for this purpose.

The Philippine National Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and other law enforcement agencies shall designate animal welfare enforcement officers who shall assist in the implementation of this Act. In the absence of such enforcement officers, the said law enforcement officers shall continue to implement the law under their general mandate.

The animal welfare enforcement officers shall have the full authority to seize and rescue illegally traded and maltreated animals and to arrest violators of this Act subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations on arrest and detention. Regardless of the absence of designated animal welfare enforcement officers in law enforcement, the same shall not preclude them from the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

The Bureau shall set guidelines in the training, qualification, reporting, and coordination of deputized animal welfare enforcement officers to cover the following:

1. Guidelines on the criteria and training requirements for the deputization of animal welfare enforcement officers; and
2. The mechanism for the supervision, monitoring, and reporting of these enforcement officers.

CHAPTER IV

BASIC ANIMAL CARE AND HANDLING GUIDELINES

Sec. 12. *Provision of Food and Water.* - Any keeper of an animal must provide the animal with, or arrange to have the animal provided with, access to appropriate

1 nutritious food at least once a day, or at a frequency that is typical for the species,
2 sufficient to maintain good health; and, if appropriate for the species, continuous access
3 to potable water that is not frozen, and is free of debris, feces, algae, and other
4 contaminants.

5 The Bureau shall provide guidelines on the appropriate food, water, and shelter
6 for the animals depending on the kind, nature, and special needs thereof.

7 **Sec. 13. *Provision of appropriate Shelter and Facilities.*** - Any keeper of an
8 animal must provide such animal with regular access to a shelter that has a solid floor;
9 provides protection from the sun, rain, and wind sufficient to maintain good health; is
10 regularly cleaned and sanitized; and is large enough for the animal to lie down, fully
11 stretch its limbs, turn around freely without any impediment, and stand up, including on
12 its hind legs if applicable, allowing the animal to express natural behavior and locomotion.

13 **Sec. 14. *Provision of Veterinary Medical Care for Sick, Compromised, or***
14 ***Injured Animals.*** - Any keeper of an animal must take all reasonable steps to ensure
15 that the physical, health, and behavioral needs of the animals are met in accordance with
16 good practice and scientific knowledge. This shall include, at minimum, a hands-on
17 examination at least once yearly by a licensed veterinarian; prompt treatment of any
18 illness or injury by a licensed veterinarian; and, where needed, humane euthanasia by a
19 licensed veterinarian.

20 **Sec. 15. *Provision of Appropriate Transport Facility.*** - Transport facilities for
21 animals must be constructed, provisioned, and utilized in such a way as to avoid causing
22 injury or undue suffering to the animals. Transport facilities shall include secure cages or
23 restraint systems appropriate for the species being transported, as well as adequate
24 ventilation to ensure the comfort and safety of the animal appropriate to its nature and
25 size.

26 **Sec. 16. *Provision of Opportunity for Animals to Express Natural***
27 ***Behaviors Including Play, Provision of Enrichment Activities, and Exercise.*** -
28 Any keeper of an animal must provide such animal regular opportunities to express
29 species-specific natural behaviors, for play and exercise in an area of sufficient space,
30 and for stimulation through environmental enrichment activities to promote their health
31 and welfare. The Bureau in consultation with stakeholders shall implement a timeline for
32 improving farm facilities to comply with the provisions hereof.

PROHIBITED ACTS

Sec. 17. *Prohibition on Cruelty, Maltreatment, Abuse, and Exploitation.*

— It shall be unlawful for any person to torture, abuse, exploit any animal, to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance, or shelter, or maltreat any animals, cause or procure to be tortured, or deprive such animals of adequate care sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or experiments not expressly authorized by the Bureau.

An act of cruelty includes but is not limited to the following:

(a) Beating, harming, injuring, crushing, mutilating, maiming, disfiguring, stabbing, cutting, poisoning, drowning, torturing, tormenting, starving, overworking, or abusing an animal, or any other act or omission toward an animal, including any act of neglect, causing the animal pain, suffering, or distress, whether physical or psychological;

(b) Exposing an animal to inhumane and unsafe conditions and situations including overcrowded, inappropriate, unclean, or unsanitary animal facilities, shelters, or transport facilities;

(c) Killing an animal by way of electrocution or gas chamber or using any petrol or diesel exhaust;

(d) Using an animal in research or experiments not expressly authorized by the Bureau; and

(e) Overworking an animal.

Sec. 18. *Prohibition on Neglect.* - It shall be unlawful for any keeper of an animal to fail to provide such animal with basic care in accordance with Chapter V of this Act. It shall also be unlawful for any keeper of an animal to allow such animal to roam the streets resulting in its impoundment by the local impounding authority.

Sec. 19. *Prohibition on Killing of Animals.* - It shall be unlawful for any person to kill any animals other than cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, carabaos, horses, or other food animals for human consumption. The killing of pets and animals not declared as food animals for human consumption, or cause or procuring the same to be killed is prohibited except in the following instances:

1. When it is done as part of the religious rituals of an established religion or sect or a ritual required by a tribal or ethnic custom of indigenous cultural communities; however, religious or tribal leaders shall keep records in accordance with relevant guidelines issued on the matter;
2. Euthanasia of a pet animal that is afflicted with an incurable communicable disease as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;
3. When euthanasia of an animal is deemed necessary to put an end to the misery suffered by the animal as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;
4. When it is done to prevent imminent danger to the life or limb of a human being;
5. When done for the purpose of animal population control as a last resort duly certified by the Provincial/City Veterinary Officer;
6. Euthanasia of an animal by a duly licensed veterinarian after the animal has been used in an authorized research or experiment in accordance with Section 26;
7. Humane slaughter of a farm animal; or
8. Any other ground analogous to the foregoing as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian. In all of the above-mentioned cases, the killing shall at all times be done only through euthanasia or other humane procedures approved by the Animal Welfare Bureau. For this purpose, humane procedures shall mean the use of the most scientific methods available as may be determined by the Bureau.

Sec. 20. Prohibition on Animal Fights. -It is prohibited to subject animals to fights such as but not limited to dog fighting, carabao or bullfighting or horse fighting, and the like, not authorized or regulated by law. Any person who participates under the circumstances as described herein shall be considered as an accessory in the commission of animal fighting and/or abetting in the commission of animal cruelty. It shall include but not be limited to pitting one animal with another for the purpose of human entertainment,

wagering, or sport. In certain instances, one of the animals involved may be a "bait animal" used for the ostensible purpose of sport or training.

The prohibition on animal fights shall include but not be limited to the following:

(a) Cause, procure, permit, encourage, promote, organize, sponsor, or incite a fight in which an animal is pitted against another animal for any purposes such as dog fighting and horse fighting and the like;

(b) Advertise, promote, sell tickets, or otherwise assist in an animal fighting venture;

(c) Attend such a fight;

(d) Breed or train any animal for the purpose of having it fight, engage, or otherwise participate in an animal fighting venture;

(e) Permit an animal fighting venture to take place on any site, structure, facility, or other premises under the person's ownership or control;

(f) Attend, wager on, or otherwise patronize an animal fighting venture; and

(g) Cause or allow a person who has not yet reached the age of 16 to attend an animal fighting venture.

Animal fighting ventures held during festivities, festivals, fiestas, and the like are not exempt from this Section and are strictly prohibited.

Sec. 21. Prohibition on Dog Meat Trading. - It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the trade of dogs for their meat which includes the farming or capture, transport, sale, or slaughter of dogs and their meat for commercial human consumption. The trade of dogs shall include but shall not be limited to buying and/or selling of dogs, dog meats and carcasses, dog farming, collecting, and/or slaughtering of dogs for commercial consumption.

Sec. 22. Prohibition on Abandonment. - It shall be unlawful for any keeper of an animal, whether temporary or permanent, to abandon such animal. Animal abandonment refers to leaving behind an animal alone or permitting the animal to be abandoned in circumstances that might cause them harm.

Sec. 23. Prohibition on Ear Cropping/ Tail docking, De-vocalization, and Declawing. - The conduct of ear cropping, tail docking, devocalization, declawing, or

any other similar mutilation is prohibited as constituting animal cruelty except in cases as may be required for the well-being of the animal as determined by a duly licensed veterinarian and not for aesthetic purposes. When allowed, the same may only be performed by a duly licensed veterinarian.

Sec. 24. *Operating an Animal Facility without a Permit or Certificate.* -

Operating any facility without a necessary permit or certification from the Bureau is hereby prohibited.

CHAPTER VI

ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 25. *In General.* - The Bureau, either independently, or in cooperation with LGUs, the registered NGOs, Animal Welfare Enforcement Officers, the Philippine National Police, and other concerned parties, is authorized to carry out enforcement operations and measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act and to eradicate, stop and prevent activities prohibited under this Act.

Sec. 26. *Visitorial/Inspection Power.* - Owners and/or operators of animal facilities shall be subjected to regular, as well as random Inspections by the Bureau on its own or through its deputized agencies and Enforcement Officers to ensure compliance with the standards set forth by this Act and subsequent rules and regulations. Fines and suspension or revocation of certificates as provided in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act shall be imposed in case of non-compliance.

Sec. 27. *Apprehension of Offending Person/s.* - Any person who has knowledge or Information about the commission of any of the prohibited acts heretofore cited may refer the same to the law enforcement authority or to the Animal Welfare Bureau and/or its deputized animal welfare enforcement officers, and other law enforcement agencies for appropriate action. The procedure in the filing of criminal charges shall be as prescribed by the rules of criminal procedure contained in the Rules of Court.

Sec. 28. *Seizure of Effects.* -Any items seized including animals, pursuant to arrests made for violation of any provision of this Act shall be held by any person, facility, or organization, authorized by the Bureau, including the LGUs, the law enforcement agencies or any Bureau accredited NGO pending disposition of administrative, civil and criminal proceedings. Animals seized shall be referred to Bureau-accredited animal

1 facilities. For wildlife, the same shall be referred to the DENR - BMB, without prejudice to
2 the latter's referral or transfer of the animals to other animal facilities provided it has
3 better and more suited facilities.

4 Any animals seized and/or rescued from any inhumane condition or facility shall be
5 immediately relieved from such condition or situation without prejudice to the
6 immediate conduct of proper documentation such as photographing for purposes of
7 preserving evidence.

8 **Sec. 29. *Rescue of Animals in an Enclosed Facility.*** - Any animals found
9 to have been kept, abandoned, deprived of basic care, protection, and food, or
10 subjected to inhumane or cruel situations in an enclosed, locked, secured, or sealed
11 facility, whether public or private, may be rescued, or relieved from the cruel situation or
12 condition in coordination with the Barangay or the Law enforcement agencies or Animal
13 Welfare Enforcement Officers/NGOs. The said enclosed facility may be broken open subject
14 to diligent efforts shown to contact the owner of the facility. Except in cases where
15 there is an imminent danger to the life of the animal, diligent effort to contact the
16 owner of the facility may be dispensed with provided the Barangay or the Police or any
17 licensed veterinarian has certified on the occurrence of such danger.

18 **Sec. 30. *Protection Orders.*** - A protection order is a relief granted under
19 this Act for the purpose of preventing further violations of the provisions herein as
20 well as to protect an animal from further distress, fear, cruelty, or discomfort by
21 relieving them or removing them from such inhumane condition and granting other
22 necessary reliefs. The protection order shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies,
23 deputized animal welfare enforcement officers, or the Bureau.

24 The protection orders that may be issued under this Act are the Barangay
25 Protection Order (BPO), temporary protection order (TPO), and permanent protection
26 order (PPO).

27 A Barangay Protection Order is issued by the barangay office where the
28 perpetrator of the prohibited act or the complaining individual or entity lives or holds
29 office. This BPO shall be effective for fifteen (15) days. A Temporary Protection Order shall
30 be issued by the court having jurisdiction over the case filed against the respondent
31 which shall last for a period of thirty (30) days. A Permanent Protection Order shall be
32 issued by the appropriate court having jurisdiction over the case filed against the

respondent which shall remain in effect unless revoked by the court after the dismissal of the case against the respondent.

A protection order may be sought by any concerned citizen, deputized animal welfare officer, law enforcement officer, the Board, or the LGU through the City or Provincial Veterinary Officers.

The protection under this Act may include any of the following reliefs:

(a) Prohibition of respondent from taking possession of the animal(s) that is or was in the respondent's possession;

(b) Prohibition of respondent from taking possession of any animal for the duration of the protection order;

(c) Prohibition of respondent from purchasing any live animal for any purpose for the duration of the protection order;

(d) Directing the respondent to stay away from the person who has caused the apprehension of the respondent and his or her family or household member at a distance specified in the protection order or a minimum of 50 meters;

(e) Directing the respondent to stay away from the residence, school, place of employment, or any specified place frequented by a particular reporter, as well as such reporter's designated family or household member/s;

(f) Granting temporary or permanent custody of the animal to any animal welfare enforcement officer or any interested animal welfare group who shall apply for the custody of said animal/s;

(g) Restitution for actual costs for the rescue, care, and rehabilitation of animal/s subject matter of the protection order; and

(h) Such other forms of relief as the court deems necessary to protect any animals as well as any Reporter and the Reporter's designated family or household member/s.

The issuance of the BPO or the pendency of an application for BPO shall not preclude the application for or the granting of TPO or PPO. Any violation of the protection order shall be deemed as multiple violations under this Act and shall be penalized accordingly.

1 **Sec. 31. Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) in the**
2 **Enforcement of this Act.** - If a person believes that a legal action filed against the
3 person constitutes a SLAPP, such person may make such assertion as an affirmative
4 defense in the action. A special hearing on the SLAPP affirmative defense shall be held
5 by the court at the earliest possible juncture in the action. The hearing on the SLAPP
6 affirmative defense shall be summary in nature, and the SLAPP affirmative defense shall
7 be resolved within thirty (30) days after the summary hearing. If the court dismisses the
8 action pursuant to the SLAPP affirmative defense, the court may award attorney's fees
9 and costs of suit, as well as damages under a counterclaim if such has been filed. The
10 dismissal shall be with prejudice.

11 If the court rejects the SLAPP affirmative defense, the evidence adduced during
12 the summary hearing shall be treated as evidence of the parties on the merits of the case.
13 The action shall proceed in accordance with the Rules of the Court.

14 **Sec. 32. Disputable Presumption.** - If, at the time of apprehension, a person
15 lacks the appropriate permit, certification or clearance, or authority, issued by the Bureau
16 or other pertinent government agencies including duly licensed Local Government
17 Veterinarian, the following shall constitute prima facie evidence of the corresponding
18 illegal acts punishable under this Act:

- 19 a. The possession of a body, carcasses or any parts thereof, meats of any animals
20 prohibited to be killed, whether raw, cooked or processed, other than those
21 allowed under existing laws on food animals, without justification or necessary
22 permit or veterinary certificate from the Bureau, LGU Veterinarian, or the
23 National Meat Inspection Service or local slaughterhouses showing the reasons
24 for the killing and the method used for the killing as well as the purpose for
25 which the carcasses are to be used is a presumption that the animals were
26 killed under circumstances prohibited under this Act thus, punishable, provided
27 that such possession includes the possession of any paraphernalia used for
28 killing, torture or maltreatment such as clubs, knife, cages, restraints along with
29 live or dead animals including any of its products and derivatives shall be a
30 disputable presumption that the possessor caused the killing and/or
31 destruction, infliction of injury, maltreatment, as appropriate;
- 32 b. The presence of fresh and/or dried blood, by-products, or derivatives of the

1 animals, with or without the tools, equipment, and/or paraphernalia
2 derivatives, shall be a disputable presumption of the killing and/or destruction
3 of the habitat of the animal involved.

4 **CHAPTER VII**

5 **PERMITS, CERTIFICATES, AND AUTHORITY TO COLLECT FEES AND CHARGES**

6 **Sec. 33. *Certificate of Registration.*** - No person, association, partnership,
7 corporation, cooperative, or any government agency or instrumentality shall establish,
8 maintain, or operate any animal facility including transport facility public or private,
9 without first securing from the Bureau a certificate of registration thereof. Any facility,
10 public or private, shall be considered as operating an animal facility when the following
11 circumstances are present:

- 12 a. When operating and representing itself publicly as such; and
- 13 b. When it has been securing donations or effecting rescue under the
14 definition of this code.

15 As such, the said facility shall be covered by the guidelines and requirements of
16 the Act.

17 The Bureau shall provide ample and reasonable time for any person, association,
18 partnership, corporation, cooperative, or any government agency or instrumentality to
19 register any animal facility, with due consideration of their scale and financial resources.

20 The Bureau may revoke or cancel the certificate of registration of an animal facility
21 if such animal facility is found to be in violation of any provision of this Act or any
22 associated guidelines, rules, regulations, standards or other just cause. The facility may
23 file with the Bureau a request for reconsideration within fifteen (15) calendar days from
24 receipt of the notice of revocation or cancellation of certificate. The Bureau shall resolve
25 the same with finality within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the request.

26 **Sec. 34. *Mayor's Permit Requirement.*** - No LGU shall issue a Mayor's or
27 business permit to any person, association, partnership, corporation, cooperative or
28 government agency or instrumentality without the presentation of a certificate coming
29 from the Bureau that it has complied with the animal welfare standards set forth herein
30 or any rules and regulations as may hereafter be enforced.

31 **CHAPTER VIII**

OTHER ANIMAL WELFARE PROVISIONS

Sec. 35. *Use of Animals for Show, Media, TV, Movies, or Entertainment* -

Promoters/organizers of animal shows, media, or entertainment, shall obtain the necessary permit from the Bureau when using animals. The presence of a licensed veterinarian during the entire show, taping, shooting, or program shall be required. The Bureau shall lay down requirements for this purpose. All other provisions regarding proper care and treatment of animals, in general, shall be applicable to these animals used for show or entertainment, especially with respect to transport, holding area, allowance for rest, and provision of food and water.

It shall be unlawful for producers and promoters of shows where animals are used to Import, procure or use animals from sources without animal welfare standards/laws and/or have been shown to have maltreated or exposed animals to Inhumane conditions prior to their importation. The animal should be given sufficient food and accommodation as well as adequate rest for the entire duration of Its stay in the Philippines.

Sec. 36. *Use of Animals for Work* - Animals used as working animals including

but not limited to carriage horses, farm animals, and the like must comply with the health and welfare standards set forth herein and as may be issued by the Bureau taking into consideration their nature and behavior. Working animals should not be allowed to work under circumstances where their health and safety will be at risk. Overworking of animals is hereby prohibited. Water and appropriate shelter protecting the same from extreme weather conditions must be provided.

Sec. 37. *Use of Animals as a Guide or Service Animals* - Service animals,

such as but not limited to guide/service dogs and police or K9 dogs are hereby regulated by the Bureau and welfare guidelines established. Certification guidelines and standards for the accreditation of dogs shall be established by the Bureau in consultation with relevant agencies and concerned groups. Service dogs or Guide dogs shall be defined accordingly.

Sec. 38. *Use of Animals in Research and Scientific Study* - Animals used in

scientific procedures, research, and studies shall be regulated by the Bureau, ensuring that animal welfare regulations and guidelines in the use, experimentation, testing, and manipulations of animals for said purpose are complied with at all times. The academe and research institutions are encouraged to use non-animal research, testing, or

educational model or strategy when reasonably and practicably available. Animal experimentation may be performed only as a last resort upon exhaustion of alternative approaches. No person, partnership, corporation, cooperative, government agency, or instrumentality undertaking or operating any research facility shall use any animal in research or experiments without first obtaining written authorization from the Bureau upon compliance with such guidelines and qualifications necessary to obtain such authority.

Sec. 39. *Farm Animals.* - The Bureau shall set out standards and guidelines in consultation with the stakeholders in the establishment and gradual compliance with animal welfare standards to better the living and health condition of animals in the farm industry.

Sec. 40. *Transportation of Animals.* - The following stipulations shall be followed when transporting animals:

a. No person shall transport an animal or cause an animal to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to an animal, including but not limited to overcrowding, lack of adequate ventilation and appropriate transport cages, unnecessary or painful restraint, improper and unsafe stowing, transport during extreme weather condition and the like, as well as failure to adequately provide food and water for the transported animals.

b. Any person transporting an animal in connection with an economic activity shall:

i. Ensure that such animal is fit to travel and checked regularly during the voyage, at least once every six hours;

ii. Protect such animals from extreme temperatures, with journeys limited to duration as prescribed by the Bureau depending on the species, nature, and needs of the transported animal;

iii. Ensure that vehicle loading and unloading facilities are constructed and maintained to avoid injury and suffering;

iv. Provide sufficient floor space and height allowance so as to allow such animal to lie down, stand up, fully stretch Its limbs, and turn around freely without any Impediment;

- 1 v. After each eight (8) hour travel period, rest such animal off the vehicle
2 for at least 24 hours, providing such animal sufficient water and feed; and
3 vi. The route with the shortest distance shall be preferred.

4 For purposes of this Section, transport "in connection with an economic activity"
5 includes but is not limited to journeys undertaken by commercial haulers, farmers,
6 commercial animal breeders, and horse racers. Such transport is not limited to transport
7 where an immediate exchange of money, goods, or services takes place and instead
8 includes, in particular, transport that directly or indirectly involves or aims at a financial
9 gain.

10 c. No person shall transport an animal fewer than eight (8) weeks old, a pregnant
11 female who has passed through ninety percent (90%) of her expected gestational
12 period, a female who has given birth in the past seven (7) days, or a sick or injured
13 animal unless such transport is to or from a veterinary practice or clinic.

14 d. Any violation of this Section shall be penalized even if the transporter has a
15 permit to transport from the Bureau; and

16 e. Any vehicle used in the transportation or importation/exportation of animals in
17 violation of the provisions of this Act shall be deemed an instrument employed in
18 the commission of the crime and shall be ordered confiscated and forfeited in favor
19 of the government upon conviction of the accused.

20 **Sec. 41. *Import and Export of Live Animals.*** — For the import and/or export
21 of live animals, compliance with the provisions of this Act must be ensured, including
22 proper holding facilities. Import of animals from countries of extremely cold climates shall
23 be prohibited unless specifically authorized on a case-by-case basis by the Bureau upon
24 submission of an approved care and sustainability program or plan.

25 **Sec. 42. *Spay and Neuter and Vaccination of Stray Cats and Dogs.*** - The
26 LGUs through the Office of the Provincial, City, and First-Class Municipalities shall
27 implement a mandatory spay and neuter for stray dogs and cats to control animal strays
28 and rabies. The Bureau may come up with other dog/cat population control programs in
29 keeping with what is relevant and necessary. Pest control companies shall not be allowed
30 to capture and dispose of cats and/or dogs. To ensure commitment by the LGUs, the
31 implementation of this Section shall be part of their Seal of Good Local Governance
32 (SGLG) assessment system.

1 pesos (P10,000.00). The penalties imposed herein are without prejudice to the
2 administrative liability of the owner/operator.

3 d. Failure to obtain the required permits to use animals for show,
4 entainment, or any form of media, or use animals for research and/or scientific
5 education experiment shall be punished with a penalty of imprisonment ranging
6 from six (6) months to one (1) year and six (6) months and a fine not exceeding
7 thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00).

8 e. If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the offender
9 responsible thereof shall be punished with the corresponding penalty of
10 Imprisonment. If the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be
11 immediately deported after the service of sentence without any further
12 proceedings;

13 f. The penalty of imprisonment ranging from two (2) years and one (1) day
14 to three (3) years and a fine not exceeding two hundred fifty thousand pesos
15 (P250,000.00), shall be imposed if the offense involves any of the following
16 circumstances:

17 i. Committed by a syndicate involving a group of three (3) or more
18 individuals;

19 ii. Committed by an offender who makes a business out of cruelty to
20 animals;

21 iii. Committed by a public officer or employee; or

22 iv. Where at least three (3) animals are involved.

23 g. In any of the foregoing situations, the offender shall suffer subsidiary
24 imprisonment in case of insolvency and the inability to pay fine.

25 h. The maximum applicable penalty shall be imposed upon a person who,
26 at the time of his or her trial for a violation of this Act, shall have been previously
27 convicted by final judgment of the same or another violation of this Act;

28 i. Any person found guilty of dog meat trading shall be punished with a
29 penalty of fine not exceeding five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per dog and penalty
30 of Imprisonment ranging from one (1) year to four (4) years;

1 j. Any violation of any other provisions of this Act shall be punished with a
2 penalty of imprisonment ranging from three (3) months to one (1) year and a fine
3 not exceeding five thousand pesos (P5,000.00);

4 k. The liability of any person herein is without prejudice to his/her liability
5 for any other offenses under another law including administrative liabilities;

6 l. Any person who has been habitually convicted of a violation of this Act
7 shall be permanently and perpetually disqualified from being Issued any permits
8 or certificates to operate any animal facility including owning or possessing an
9 animal/pet;

10 m. The courts, in its discretion, in lieu of service in jail, may require that the
11 imposed penalties of imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year be served by the
12 defendant by rendering community service under such terms and conditions that
13 the courts may determine depending on the gravity of the offense. Under this
14 circumstance, the courts will prepare an order imposing the penalty of community
15 service in lieu of the penalty, specifying the number of hours to be worked and the
16 period for it to be completed. Community service to be rendered must be related
17 to assistance to animals.

18 CHAPTER XI

19 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

20 **Sec. 46. *Animal Welfare Fund.*** - There is hereby established an Animal Welfare
21 Fund to be administered by the Bureau as a special account in the National Treasury. It
22 shall finance the programs of the Bureau on animal welfare as well as the enforcement
23 process. The Fund shall be derived from fines imposed and damages awarded pursuant
24 to violations of this Act, fees charged for permits, registrations, authorizations, donations,
25 endowments, administrative fees, or grants in the form of contributions. Contribution to
26 the Fund shall be exempt from donor taxes and all other taxes, charges, or fees imposed
27 by the government.

28 **Sec. 47. *Mandatory Animal Welfare Education.*** - It shall be mandatory for all
29 primary and secondary education schools, public and private to integrate in their
30 curriculum and have activities on the following:

- 31 (1) The promotion and protection of the welfare of animals;

(2) (2) Responsible pet ownership; and

(3) (3) Concept of animal welfare.

Sec. 48. *Emergency Response.* - The Bureau shall create and implement, in collaboration with the LGUs and animal welfare NGOs, an interagency emergency response program for rescuing and caring for animals in times of calamity including but not limited to floods, earthquakes, and the like. Such program shall include the establishment and placing of the animals in identified animal evacuation centers, temporary shelters, and/or recognized rescue centers, whether public or private until the same is claimed by their rightful owners or can be rehomed appropriately.

The Bureau, through the LGUs, shall likewise establish an emergency response system to rescue and/or refer animals' victim of abuse, cruelty, and maltreatment to recognized animal shelters or facilities whether public or private.

Sec. 49. *Custody of Rescued Animals.* - Any animal/s seized or rescued from violators of this Act made in response to a violation of any provision of this Act and subsequent guidelines, rules, and regulations may be held in custody pending disposition of administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings. Animals seized or rescued shall be referred to the Local Government Pound or Shelter, Bureau accredited animal facilities subject to rules and regulations as may be hereinafter issued. For wildlife, the same shall be referred to the DENR-BMB or their nearest regional offices.

Sec. 50. *Role of Local Government Units and other government agencies.*
- LGUs shall support the Bureau In the implementation of this Act by issuing necessary animal welfare ordinances and implementing animal welfare programs in coordination with the Bureau, including the conduct of mandatory spay and neutering to control dog and cat population as well as veterinary access. Other government agencies handling animals within the definition of this Act are required to adopt and implement animal welfare standards, policies, rules, and regulations in their operation consistent with this Act.

Recognizing the important role of the Barangay, a Barangay Animal Welfare Task Force shall be created and shall adopt programs consistent with the provisions of this Act and rules and regulations issued to implement the purpose of this Act.

Sec. 51. *Construction of the Law.* - This Act shall be liberally construed in favor of the promotion and protection of the welfare of the animals.

1 **Sec. 52. *Transition.*** - During the transition within one (1) year from effectivity
2 hereof, the existing Bureau of Animal Industry shall remain to be the supervisory and
3 authority in the implementation of the provisions of this act and shall manage, supervise
4 turn over, and monitor the establishment of the Bureau until the same becomes
5 operational including the assignment and appointment of personnel and staff during the
6 transition.

7 **Sec. 53. *Separability Clause.*** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
8 unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected,
9 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

10 **Sec. 54. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, rules, and regulations
11 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

12 **Sec. 55. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication In the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,