



S E N A T E

S. No. 2975

PREPARED 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, VILLAR (C), AND VILLAR (M) 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:*

1 CHAPTER I

2 TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND DEFINITION

3 OF TERMS

4 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as “The
5 Revised Animal Welfare Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the State’s policy to protect life, liberty, and property including the promotion of animal welfare by establishing a system of supervision and regulation to ensure humane treatment in all aspects of keeping, maintaining, handling, transporting, breeding, training, treating, and use of animals. Good animal welfare involves adherence to the five (5) basic freedoms of animals namely:

(a) Freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition;

(b) Freedom from physical discomfort and pain;

(c) Freedom from injury and disease;

(d) Freedom to express normal behaviors; and

(e) Freedom from fear and distress.

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

(a) Handle, breed, train, keep, care for, transport, exhibit, display, use, or otherwise interact with animals, whether as pets, livestock, wildlife, or animals used for education, entertainment, or show; or

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

SEC. 4. *Objectives.* – The State shall promote the welfare of all animals by establishing rules, regulations, guidelines, and standards and endeavor to achieve the following objectives:

(a) Provide rules, regulations, guidelines, and standards in the establishment and operation of animal facilities, transportation, and the like;

(b) Establish welfare guidelines and standards in the use, treatment, breeding, maintenance, keeping, and training of all animals;

(c) Protect and promote animal health through the maintenance of adequate, clean, and sanitary facilities used in the keeping, breeding, treating, and training of animals;

1 (d) Promote responsible pet ownership through
2 education and information dissemination;

3 (e) Regulate the operation and maintenance of
4 animal facilities, or any establishment where animals are
5 kept for whatever reason or purpose;

6 (f) Formulate rules and regulations that will ensure
7 the promotion of animal welfare in the establishment,
8 maintenance, and operation of any pet shop, kennel,
9 national or local government pound, shelter,
10 slaughterhouse, veterinary clinic, veterinary hospital,
11 stockyard, corral, stud farm, stock farm, or zoo for the
12 breeding, raising, treatment, sale, trading, or training of
13 animals;

14 (g) Establish inter-agency, multi-sectoral, and local
15 government cooperation for the promotion and protection
16 of animal welfare;

17 (h) Create an agency and establish an organizational
18 structure that will effectively implement the provisions of
19 this Act and all laws relevant to it; and

(i) Promote public awareness and concern for caring for animals and their welfare.

SEC. 5. *Animal Welfare Principles*. – Animal welfare standards, practices, policies, and regulations shall be based on the following principles:

(a) Decisions regarding animal care, use, and welfare shall be made by balancing scientific knowledge and professional judgment with consideration of ethical and societal values;

(b) Animals must be provided with water, food, proper handling, health care, and an environment appropriate to their care and use, with thoughtful consideration for their species-typical biology and behavior;

(c) Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize fear, pain, stress, and suffering. Conservation and management of animal populations should be humane, socially responsible, and scientifically prudent;

(d) Protection of animal habitat is an animal welfare consideration;

(e) Consider the five (5) basic freedoms of animals:

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

(2) Freedom from physical discomfort and pain;

(3) Freedom from injury and disease;

(4) Freedom to express normal behaviors; and

(5) Freedom from fear and distress.

(f) Animals shall be treated with respect and dignity

throughout their lives and, when necessary, provided with

a humane death.

SEC. 6. *Definitions.* – As used in this Act:

(a) *Animals* refer to domesticated vertebrate and

invertebrate species under the control of man, which

may be food-producing, companion, laborers, aquatic, or

laboratory. The term excludes humans;

(b) *Animal facility* refers to any facility, structure,

or premises used for the purpose of keeping, caring,

breeding, rearing, holding, gaming, training, trading,

treating, or exhibiting animals, including but not limited to

farms, zoos, aviaries, apiaries, kennels, race tracks,

cockpits, pet shops, shelters, national or local government

pounds, animal rescue centers, airports, and seaports
quarantine stations, animal holding facilities, stables,
livestock markets, stockyards, corrals, stud farms, stock
farms, slaughterhouses, aquaria, laboratories, veterinary
clinics, and veterinary hospitals;

(c) *Animal welfare* refers to the physical and
psychological well-being of animals. It includes, but is
not limited to, avoiding abuse, maltreatment, cruelty,
and exploitation of animals by humans through the
maintenance of appropriate standards for
accommodation, feeding, and general care; preventing
and treating diseases; assuring freedom from fear,
distress, harassment, and unnecessary discomfort and
pains and allowing animals to express natural behavior;

(d) *Animal fighting venture* refers to any event,
show, exhibition, program, or other activity that
involves a fight conducted between two (2) or more
animals for purposes of sport, wagering, amusement, or
entertainment;

(e) *Animal Welfare Enforcement Officer* refers to the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and other law enforcement agencies, citizens' groups, community organizations, and other volunteer members of non-government organizations (NGOs), and people's organizations (POs) designated as such by the Secretary of Agriculture;

(f) *Bureau* refers to the Animal Welfare Bureau;

(g) *Captive animals* refer to animals that are confined for educational or recreational purposes in places such as but not limited to zoos, sanctuaries, rescue centers, sea or ocean facilities;

(h) *Department* refers to the Department of Agriculture (DA);

(i) *Director* refers to the individual in charge of the Bureau;

(j) *Euthanasia* refers to the Bureau-approved process or method of painless death of animals;

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

(l) *Local government unit (LGU)* refers to a province, city, or municipality;

(m) *Pets* refer to domestic animals documented or otherwise, intended for companionship, therapy, seeing and hearing guide, 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;

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

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

(p) *Secretary* refers to the Secretary of the DA;

(q) *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

1 person, institution, or the government has taken or may
2 take in the enforcement of this Act;

3 (r) *Transport facility* refers to any public or private
4 transportation, whether by air, water, or land, including
5 tricycles and the like, used to move animals to a
6 particular destination; and

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

10 The Bureau may define such other terms as may
11 be used in the implementation of this Act.

12 CHAPTER II

13 THE ANIMAL WELFARE BUREAU

14 SEC. 7. *Animal Welfare Bureau.* – The Bureau is
15 hereby created as a line bureau under the DA. It shall
16 establish regional, provincial, and municipal offices as
17 appropriate and necessary to effectively and efficiently
18 carry out the provisions of this Act.

1 SEC. 8. *Functions of the Bureau.* – As a line bureau,
2 it shall:

3 (a) Formulate policies, guidelines, standards, rules,
4 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act;

5 (b) Provide minimum standards on the appropriate
6 food, water, and shelter for each species of pets and
7 animals depending on the age, breed, size, and special needs
8 thereof;

9 (c) In consultation with the Land Transportation
10 Office, Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory
11 Board, Civil Aeronautics Board, the Maritime Industry
12 Authority, other transport regulating body or agencies,
13 experts, and animal welfare groups, set a species-specific
14 standard for transportation of animals, including
15 definitions for cruel confinement and restraint during
16 transport, appropriate designs for transport cages and
17 facilities, restraint types, provision of food and water,
18 ventilation, and protection from extreme weather
19 conditions;

1 (d) Establish an emergency animal response and
2 rescue system to appropriately respond in cases of
3 calamities such as but not limited to floods, earthquakes,
4 and other natural disasters;

5 (e) Promulgate guidelines for humane slaughter of
6 animals, in consultation with the National Meat Inspection
7 Service (NMIS), LGUs and other concerned government
8 agencies;

9 (f) Implement a system for inspection of animal
10 facilities to ensure compliance with animal welfare
11 standards and regulations;

12 (g) Monitor compliance of the LGUs with animal
13 welfare programs, standards, rules, and regulations;

14 (h) Ensure proper coordination with NGOs, POs, and
15 the academe for the strict implementation of rules and
16 regulations;

17 (i) Formulate guidelines and qualifications related
18 to research and testing on animals;

19 (j) Issue, suspend, or cancel permits or certifications
20 pursuant to the purposes of this Act;

1 (k) Levy and collect fees for registration,
2 certification, inspection and monitoring system, and other
3 fees as the Bureau may deem necessary for the effective
4 implementation of this Act;

5 (l) Keep records and documents pertaining to
6 animal welfare in the country, and maintain a surveillance
7 and management information system on animal welfare;

8 (m) Create a system and issue guidelines for the
9 determination or approval of applications for certifications,
10 authorizations, and permits necessary for the
11 establishment, maintenance, and operation of animal
12 facilities; issue said certifications, authorizations, and
13 permits; and collect associated fees;

14 (n) Call upon any government agency for assistance
15 consistent with its powers, duties, and responsibilities for
16 the purpose of ensuring the effective and efficient
17 implementation of this Act and the rules and regulations
18 promulgated thereunder. Such government agencies shall
19 assist the Bureau when called upon for assistance using
20 any available fund in its budget for the purpose; and

1 (o) Perform such other duties and responsibilities
2 which are necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act.

3 SEC. 9. *Composition of the Bureau.* – The Bureau
4 shall be headed by a Director and assisted by two (2)
5 Assistant Directors who shall supervise its administrative
6 and technical services.

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

11 SEC. 10. *Personnel and Staffing Pattern.* –
12 Notwithstanding the provisions of existing laws, the
13 Secretary of the DA shall require the Director of the
14 Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), as an interim Director
15 of the Bureau, to submit a recommendation on the
16 personnel and staffing pattern of the Bureau to the
17 Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the
18 Civil Service Commission (CSC), within thirty (30) days
19 from the effectivity of this Act.

CHAPTER III

THE ANIMAL WELFARE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

SEC. 11. *Deputization of Animal Welfare Enforcement*

Officers. – The Secretary of the DA shall deputize animal welfare enforcement officers from NGOs, citizens' groups, community organizations, and other volunteers who have undergone the necessary training for this purpose.

The PNP, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the 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 animal welfare enforcement officers, the law enforcement agencies 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 arrest violators of this Act, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations on arrest and detention. The absence of designated animal welfare

1 enforcement officers in law enforcement agencies shall not
2 preclude the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

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

6 (a) The criteria and training requirements for the
7 deputization of animal welfare enforcement officers; and

8 (b) The mechanism for the supervision, monitoring,
9 and reporting of these animal welfare enforcement officers.

10 CHAPTER IV

11 BASIC ANIMAL CARE AND HANDLING GUIDELINES

12 SEC. 12. *Provision of Food and Water.* – Any keeper of
13 an animal must provide it with, or arrange for the
14 provision of its access to appropriate nutritious food at
15 least once a day, or at a frequency that is typical for the
16 species, sufficient to maintain good health; and, if
17 appropriate for the species, continuous access to potable
18 water that is not frozen, and free of debris, feces, algae,
19 and other contaminants.

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

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

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

1 veterinarian; and, when needed, humane euthanasia by a
2 licensed veterinarian.

3 SEC. 15. *Provision of Appropriate Transport Facility.*

4 – Transport facilities for animals must be constructed,
5 provisioned, and utilized as to avoid causing injury or
6 undue suffering to the animals. Transport facilities shall
7 include secure cages or restraint systems appropriate for
8 the species being transported, as well as adequate
9 ventilation to ensure the comfort and safety of the animal,
10 appropriate to its nature and size.

11 SEC. 16. *Provision of Opportunity for Animals to*
12 *Express Natural Behaviors Including Play, Provision of*
13 *Enrichment Activities, and Exercise.* – Any keeper of an
14 animal must provide it with regular opportunities to
15 express species-specific natural behaviors, for play and
16 exercise in an area of sufficient space, and for stimulation
17 through environmental enrichment activities to promote
18 their health and welfare. The Bureau, in consultation with
19 stakeholders, shall implement a timeline for improving
20 farm facilities in compliance with the provisions hereof.

CHAPTER V

PROHIBITED ACTS

SEC. 17. *Prohibition on Cruelty, Maltreatment, Abuse, and Exploitation.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to torture, abuse, exploit, or maltreat any animal; to deprive or neglect to provide it with adequate care, sustenance, or shelter; or to cause or procure any animal to be tortured, maltreated or used 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, that causes its pain, suffering, or distress, whether physical or psychological;

(b) Exposing an animal to inhumane and unsafe conditions and situations including overcrowded,

1 inappropriate, unclean, or unsanitary animal facilities,
2 shelters, or transport facilities;

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

5 (d) Using an animal in research or experiments not
6 expressly authorized by the Bureau.

7 SEC. 18. *Prohibition on Neglect.* – It shall be unlawful
8 for any keeper of an animal to fail to provide it with basic
9 care in accordance with Chapter V of this Act. It shall also
10 be unlawful for any keeper of an animal to allow it to roam
11 the streets resulting in its impoundment by the local
12 impounding authority.

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

(a) When it is done as part of the religious ritual of an established religion or sect, or a ritual required by a tribal or ethnic custom of indigenous cultural communities:

Provided, That religious or tribal leaders shall keep records in accordance with relevant guidelines issued on the matter;

(b) Euthanasia of a pet animal that is afflicted with an incurable communicable disease as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;

(c) 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;

(d) When it is done to prevent imminent danger to the life or limb of a human being;

(e) When done for the purpose of animal population control as a last resort duly certified by the provincial/city veterinary officer;

(f) Euthanasia of an animal by a duly licensed veterinarian after the animal has been used in an

1 authorized research or experiment in accordance with
2 Section 26 of this Act;

3 (g) Humane slaughter of a farm animal; or

4 (h) Any other ground analogous to the foregoing as
5 determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian.

6 In all of the above-mentioned cases, the killing shall at all
7 times be done only through euthanasia or other humane
8 procedure approved by the Bureau. For this purpose,
9 humane procedures shall mean the use of the most
10 scientific methods available as may be determined by the
11 Bureau.

12 SEC. 20. *Prohibition on Animal Fights.* – It is
13 prohibited to subject animals to fights such as but not
14 limited to dog fighting, carabao or bullfighting, or horse
15 fighting not authorized or regulated by law. Any person
16 who participates under the circumstances described herein
17 shall be considered as an accessory in the commission of
18 animal fighting and/or abetting in the commission of
19 animal cruelty. The prohibition shall include, but not be
20 limited to, pitting one (1) animal against another for the

1 purpose of human entertainment, wagering, or sport. In
2 certain instances, one (1) of the animals involved may be a
3 “bait animal” used for the ostensible purpose of sport or
4 training.

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

7 (a) Causing, procuring, permitting, encouraging,
8 promoting, organize, sponsor, or inciting a fight in which
9 an animal is pitted against another animal for any purpose
10 such as dog fighting, horse fighting, and the like;

11 (b) Advertising, promoting, selling tickets, or
12 otherwise assist in an animal fighting venture;

13 (c) Attending such fights;

14 (d) Breeding or training any animal for the purpose
15 of having it fight, engage, or otherwise participate in an
16 animal fighting venture;

17 (e) Permitting an animal fighting venture to take
18 place on any site, structure, facility, or other premises
19 under the person’s ownership or control;

(f) Attending, wagering on, or otherwise patronize an animal fighting venture; and

(g) Causing or allowing a person who has not yet reached the age of sixteen (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 trading, farming, 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 it. Animal abandonment refers to leaving behind an animal alone, or permitting the

1 animal to be abandoned in circumstances that might cause
2 them harm.

3 SEC. 23. *Prohibition on Ear Cropping, Tail Docking,*
4 *De-vocalization, and Declawing.* – The conduct of ear
5 cropping, tail docking, devocalization, declawing, or any
6 other similar mutilation for aesthetic purposes or
7 otherwise is prohibited and constitutes animal cruelty,
8 except in cases as may be required for the well-being of the
9 animal as determined by a duly licensed veterinarian.
10 When allowed, the same may only be performed by a duly
11 licensed veterinarian.

12 SEC. 24. *Operating an Animal Facility Without a*
13 *Permit or Certificate.* – Operating any facility without
14 a necessary permit or certification from the Bureau is
15 hereby prohibited.

16 CHAPTER VI

17 ENFORCEMENT

18 SEC. 25. *In General.* – The Bureau, either
19 independently or in cooperation with the LGUs, registered

1 NGOs, animal welfare enforcement officers, the PNP, and
2 other concerned parties, is authorized to carry out
3 enforcement operations and measures to ensure
4 compliance with the provisions of this Act and to eradicate,
5 stop, and prevent activities prohibited hereunder.

6 SEC. 26. *Visitorial/Inspection Power.* – Owners
7 and/or operators of animal facilities shall be subject to
8 regular, as well as random, inspections by the Bureau on
9 its own or through its deputized agencies and animal
10 welfare enforcement officers to ensure compliance with the
11 standards set forth under this Act and subsequent rules
12 and regulations. Fines and suspension or revocation of
13 certificates as provided in the implementing rules and
14 regulations (IRR) of this Act shall be imposed in case of
15 non-compliance.

16 SEC. 27. *Apprehension of Offending Person/s.* – Any
17 person who has knowledge or information about the
18 commission of any of the prohibited acts may refer the
19 same to the Bureau and/or its deputized animal welfare
20 enforcement officers, and other law enforcement agencies

1 for appropriate action. The procedure on the filing of
2 criminal charges shall be consistent with the Rules of
3 Criminal Procedure contained in the Rules of Court.

4 SEC. 28. *Seizure of Effects.* – Pending disposition of
5 administrative, civil, and criminal proceedings, any
6 animals or item seized pursuant to arrests made for
7 violations of any provision of this Act shall be held by a
8 person, facility, or organization authorized by the Bureau,
9 including the LGUs, law enforcement agencies, or any
10 Bureau-accredited NGO. Animals seized shall be referred
11 to Bureau-accredited animal facilities. For wildlife, the
12 same shall be referred to the Department of Environment
13 and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau
14 (DENR-BMB), without prejudice to the latter's referral or
15 transfer of the animals to other suitable facilities.

16 Any animal seized and/or rescued from any inhumane
17 condition or facility shall be immediately relieved from
18 such condition or situation after the conduct of proper
19 documentation such as photographing for purposes of
20 preserving evidence.

1 SEC. 29. *Rescue of Animals in an Enclosed Facility.* –

2 Any animal found to have been kept, abandoned,
3 deprived of basic care, protection, and food, or subjected
4 to inhumane or cruel situations in an enclosed, locked,
5 secured, or sealed facility, whether public or private, may
6 be rescued or relieved from the cruel situation or condition,
7 in coordination with the barangay or the law enforcement
8 agencies or animal welfare enforcement officers/NGOs. The
9 said enclosed facility may be broken open, subject to
10 diligent efforts shown to contact the owner of the facility.
11 Except in cases where there is an imminent danger to
12 the life of the animal, diligent effort to contact the owner
13 of the facility may be dispensed with provided the
14 barangay, the police, or any licensed veterinarian has
15 certified the occurrence of such danger.

16 SEC. 30. *Protection Orders.* – A protection order is

17 a relief granted under this Act to prevent further
18 violations of the provisions herein, as well as to protect
19 an animal from further distress, fear, cruelty, or
20 discomfort by relieving them or removing them from such

1 inhumane condition and granting other necessary reliefs.

2 The protection order shall be enforced by law enforcement
3 agencies, deputized animal welfare enforcement officers, or
4 the Bureau.

5 The protection orders that may be issued under
6 this Act are the barangay protection order (BPO),
7 temporary protection order (TPO), and permanent
8 protection order (PPO).

9 A BPO is issued by the barangay office where the
10 perpetrator of the prohibited act or the complaining
11 individual or entity lives or holds office. The BPO shall be
12 effective for fifteen (15) days. A TPO shall be issued by
13 the court having jurisdiction over the case filed
14 against the respondent which shall last for a period of
15 thirty (30) days. A PPO shall be issued by the appropriate
16 court having jurisdiction over the case filed against the
17 respondent which shall remain in effect unless revoked by
18 the court after the dismissal of the case against the
19 respondent.

1 A protection order may be sought by any concerned
2 citizen, deputized animal welfare enforcement officer, law
3 enforcement officer, the Bureau, or the LGU through the
4 city/provincial veterinary officers. The protection under
5 this Act may include any of the following reliefs:

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

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

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

14 (d) Directing the respondent to stay away from the
15 person who has caused the apprehension of the respondent
16 sought the protection order and his or her family or
17 household member at a distance of at least fifty (50) meters
18 or as specified in the protection order;

19 (e) Directing the respondent to stay away from the
20 residence, school, place of employment, or any specified

1 place frequented by a particular reporter, as well as such
2 reporter's family or household member/s;

3 (f) Granting temporary or permanent custody of the
4 animal to any animal welfare enforcement officer or any
5 interested animal welfare group who applied for the
6 custody of said animal/s;

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

10 (h) Such other forms of relief as the court deems
11 necessary to protect any animal as well as any reporter
12 and the reporter's designated family or household
13 member/s.

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

19 SEC. 31. *Strategic Lawsuit Against Public*
20 *Participation in the Enforcement of this Act.* – If a person

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

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

18 SEC. 32. *Disputable Presumption.* – If, at the time of
19 apprehension, a person lacks the appropriate permit,
20 certification, clearance, or authority issued by the Bureau

1 or other pertinent government agencies including a duly
2 licensed local government veterinarian, the following shall
3 constitute *prima facie* evidence of the corresponding illegal
4 acts punishable under this Act:

5 (a) The possession of a body, carcass, or any part
6 thereof, meat of any animals prohibited to be killed,
7 whether raw, cooked or processed, other than those
8 allowed under existing laws on food animals, without
9 justification or necessary permit or certificate from the
10 Bureau, LGU veterinarian, the NMIS, or local
11 slaughterhouses showing the reasons and method used for
12 the killing, as well as the purpose for which the carcass is
13 to be used, is a presumption that the animals were killed
14 under circumstances prohibited under this Act. When such
15 possession includes the possession of any paraphernalia
16 used for killing, torture, or maltreatment such as clubs,
17 knife, cages, restraints, along with live or dead animals
18 including any of its products and derivatives, there shall be
19 a disputable presumption that the possessor caused the

1 killing, destruction, infliction of injury, or maltreatment, as
2 appropriate;

3 (b) The presence of fresh and/or dried blood,
4 by-products, or derivatives of the animals, with or without
5 the tools, equipment, and/or paraphernalia derivatives,
6 shall be a disputable presumption of the killing and/or
7 destruction of the habitat of the animal involved.

8 CHAPTER VII

9 PERMITS, CERTIFICATES, AND AUTHORITY

10 TO COLLECT FEES AND CHARGES

11 SEC. 33. *Certificate of Registration.* – No person,
12 association, partnership, corporation, cooperative, or any
13 government agency or instrumentality shall establish,
14 maintain, or operate any animal facility or transport
15 facility, public or private, without first securing a
16 certificate of registration from the Bureau. Any public or
17 private facility shall be considered as operating an animal
18 facility, and subject to the guidelines and requirements of
19 this Act, when the following circumstances are present:

1 (a) When operating and representing itself publicly
2 as such; and

3 (b) When it has been securing donations or effecting
4 rescue under the definition of this Act.

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

10 The Bureau may revoke or cancel the Certificate Of
11 Registration of an animal facility that is found to be in
12 violation of any provision of this Act or any associated
13 guidelines, rules, regulations, or standards. The facility
14 may file with the Bureau a request for reconsideration
15 within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the notice
16 of revocation or cancellation of certificate. The Bureau
17 shall resolve the same with finality within fifteen (15)
18 calendar days from receipt of the request.

19 SEC. 34. *Mayor's Permit Requirement.* – No LGU shall
20 issue a mayor's or business permit to any person,

1 association, partnership, corporation, cooperative,
2 government agency or instrumentality without the
3 presentation of a certificate coming from the Bureau that it
4 has complied with the animal welfare standards set forth
5 herein or any rules and regulations hereafter enforced.

6 CHAPTER VIII

7 OTHER ANIMAL WELFARE PROVISIONS

8 SEC. 35. *Use of Animals for Show, Media, TV, Movies,*
9 *or Entertainment.* – Promoters/organizers of animal shows,
10 media, or entertainment, shall obtain the necessary permit
11 from the Bureau when using animals. The presence of a
12 licensed veterinarian during the entire show, taping,
13 shooting, or program shall be required. The Bureau shall
14 lay down requirements for this purpose. All other
15 provisions regarding proper care and treatment of animals,
16 in general, shall be applicable to animals used for show or
17 entertainment, especially with respect to transport,
18 holding area, allowance for rest, and provision of food and
19 water.

1 It shall be unlawful for producers and promoters of
2 shows where animals are used to import, procure, or use
3 animals from sources without animal welfare standards
4 and/or that have been shown to have maltreated or
5 exposed animals to inhumane conditions prior to their
6 importation. The animal shall be given sufficient food and
7 accommodation, as well as adequate rest, for the entire
8 duration of its stay in the Philippines.

9 SEC. 36. *Use of Animals for Work.* – Animals used for
10 work, including but not limited to carriage horses, farm
11 animals, and the like, must comply with the health and
12 welfare standards set forth herein and as issued by the
13 Bureau, taking into consideration their nature and
14 behavior. Working animals should not be allowed to work
15 under circumstances where their health and safety will be
16 at risk. Overworking of animals is hereby prohibited.
17 Water and appropriate shelter protecting the animals from
18 extreme weather conditions must be provided.

19 SEC. 37. *Guide/Service Animals.* – Service animals,
20 such as but not limited to guide/service dogs and police or

1 K9 dogs, shall be defined and regulated by the Bureau.
2 Certification guidelines and standards for the accreditation
3 of service/guide animals shall be established by the Bureau
4 in consultation with relevant agencies and concerned
5 groups.

6 SEC. 38. *Use of Animals in Research and Scientific*
7 *Study.* – Animals used in scientific procedures, research,
8 and studies shall be regulated by the Bureau, ensuring
9 that animal welfare regulations and guidelines in the use,
10 experimentation, testing, and manipulation of animals for
11 said purpose are complied with at all times. The academe
12 and research institutions are encouraged to use
13 non-animal research, testing, or educational model or
14 strategy when reasonably and practicably available.
15 Animal experimentation may be performed only as a last
16 resort upon exhaustion of alternative approaches. No
17 person, partnership, corporation, cooperative, government
18 agency, or instrumentality undertaking or operating any
19 research facility shall use any animal in research or
20 experiment without first obtaining a written authorization

1 from the Bureau upon compliance with necessary
2 guidelines and qualifications.

3 SEC. 39. *Farm Animals.* – The Bureau, in
4 consultation with the stakeholders, shall set out standards
5 and guidelines in the establishment and gradual
6 compliance with animal welfare standards to improve the
7 living and health condition of animals in the farm
8 industry.

9 SEC. 40. *Transportation of Animals.* – The following
10 stipulations shall be followed when transporting animals:

11 (a) No person shall transport or cause an animal to
12 be transported in a way likely to cause its injury or undue
13 suffering, including but not limited to overcrowding, lack of
14 adequate ventilation and appropriate transport cages,
15 unnecessary or painful restraint, improper and unsafe
16 stowing, transport during extreme weather and other
17 similar conditions, as well as failure to adequately provide
18 food and water for the transported animals.

19 (b) Any person transporting an animal in connection
20 with an economic activity shall:

(1) Ensure that such animal is fit to travel and checked regularly at least once every six (6) hours during the voyage;

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

(3) Ensure that vehicle loading and unloading facilities are constructed and maintained to avoid injury and suffering;

(4) Provide sufficient floor space and height allowance to allow the animal to lie down, stand up, fully stretch its limbs, and turn around freely without any impediment;

(5) After each eight (8) hour travel period, allow the animal to rest off the vehicle for at least twenty-four (24) hours, providing it with sufficient water and food; and

(6) Prioritize/use the route with the shortest distance.

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

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

15 (d) Any violation of this section shall be penalized
16 even if the transporter has a permit to transport from the
17 Bureau; and

18 (e) Any vehicle used in the transportation or
19 importation/exportation of animals in violation of the
20 provisions of this Act shall be deemed an instrument

1 employed in the commission of the crime and shall be
2 ordered confiscated and forfeited in favor of the
3 government upon conviction of the accused.

4 SEC. 41. *Import and Export of Live Animals.* – For the
5 import and/or export of live animals, compliance with the
6 provisions of this Act, including the provision of holding
7 facilities must be ensured. Importation of animals from
8 countries of extremely cold climates shall be prohibited
9 unless specifically authorized on a case-to-case basis by the
10 Bureau upon submission of an approved care and
11 sustainability program or plan.

12 SEC. 42. *Spay and Neuter and Vaccination of Stray*
13 *Cats and Dogs.* – The LGUs shall implement a mandatory
14 spay and neuter for stray dogs and cats to control animal
15 strays and rabies. The Bureau may come up with other
16 relevant and necessary dog/cat population control
17 programs. Pest control companies shall not be allowed to
18 capture and dispose of cats and/or dogs. To ensure
19 commitment by the LGUs, the implementation of this

1 section shall be part of their Seal of Good Local
2 Governance (SGLG) assessment system.

3 SEC. 43. *Communication, Education, and other Public*
4 *Awareness Campaigns.* – The Bureau, together with other
5 agencies, NGOs, and stakeholders, shall implement
6 programs towards increasing animal welfare awareness
7 through education and various information awareness
8 activities and programs.

9 CHAPTER IX

10 PENALTIES

11 SEC. 44. *Penalties.* – The following penalties shall be
12 imposed for violation of any provision of this Act:

13 (a) Any person who subjects any animal to cruelty,
14 torture, maltreatment, or any of the prohibited acts herein
15 shall be punished with a penalty of imprisonment ranging
16 from one (1) year and six (6) months to three (3) years and
17 a fine of not less than Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00)
18 but not more than One hundred thousand pesos
19 (P100,000.00);

(b) Abandonment of animals shall be punished with a penalty of imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to one (1) year, and a fine not exceeding Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00). If the animal is left in circumstances likely to cause the animal unnecessary suffering or if the abandonment results in the death or injury of the animal, the person liable shall suffer the maximum penalty of imprisonment of one (1) year and a fine of Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00);

(c) Operating an animal facility, including an animal transport facility, without the required permit shall be punished with a penalty of imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to one (1) year and a fine not exceeding Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00). The penalties imposed herein are without prejudice to the administrative liability of the owner/operator;

(d) Failure to obtain the required permits to use animals for show, entrainment, or any form of media, or for research and/or scientific education experiment shall be punished with a penalty of imprisonment ranging from six

(6) months to one (1) year and six (6) months and a fine not exceeding Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00);

(e) If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the offender responsible therefor shall be punished with the corresponding penalty of imprisonment. If the violation is committed by an alien, he/she shall be immediately deported after the service of sentence without any further proceeding;

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

(1) Committed by a syndicate involving a group of three (3) or more individuals;

(2) Committed by an offender who makes a business out of cruelty to animals;

(3) Committed by a public officer or employee; or

(4) Where at least three (3) animals are involved;

1 (g) In any of the foregoing situations, the offender
2 shall suffer subsidiary imprisonment in case of insolvency
3 and the inability to pay fine;

4 (h) The maximum applicable penalty shall be
5 imposed upon a person who, at the time of his/her trial for
6 a violation of this Act, has been previously convicted by
7 final judgment for the same offense or for another violation
8 of this Act;

9 (i) Any person found guilty of dog meat trading shall
10 be punished with a penalty of imprisonment ranging from
11 one (1) year to four (4) years and a fine not exceeding Five
12 thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per dog;

13 (j) Any violation of any other provision of this Act
14 shall be punished with a penalty of imprisonment ranging
15 from three (3) months to one (1) year and a fine not
16 exceeding Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00);

17 (k) The liability of any person herein is without
18 prejudice to his/her criminal, civil, or administrative
19 liability for any other offense under another law;

(l) Any person who has been habitually convicted of a violation of this Act shall be permanently and perpetually disqualified from being issued any permit or certificate to operate any animal facility, including owning or possessing an animal/pet;

(m) The court may, in its discretion, require that the imposed penalties of imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year be served by the defendant by rendering community service under such terms and conditions that the court may determine depending on the gravity of the offense. Under this circumstance, the court shall prepare an order imposing the penalty of community service in lieu of imprisonment, specifying the required number of hours and the period for its completion. Community service to be rendered must be related to assistance to animals.

CHAPTER X

APPROPRIATION

SEC. 45. *Appropriation.* – The initial funding to establish the Bureau shall be taken from the general

1 appropriations of the DA to the extent of the amount of
2 Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) for the first year.

3 The subsequent funding shall be included in the
4 General Appropriation Act which shall include all
5 necessary amounts to achieve the purposes of this Act and
6 to ensure the proper functioning of the Bureau, including
7 the enforcement of this Act.

8 CHAPTER XI

9 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

10 SEC. 46. *Animal Welfare Fund.* – There is hereby
11 established an Animal Welfare Fund to be administered by
12 the Bureau as a special account in the National Treasury.
13 It shall finance the programs of the Bureau on animal
14 welfare and enforcement process. The Fund shall be
15 derived from fines imposed and damages awarded
16 pursuant to violations of this Act; fees charged for permits,
17 registrations, or authorizations; administrative fees; or
18 donations, endowments, or grants in the form of
19 contributions. Contributions to the fund shall be exempt

1 from donor's tax and all other taxes, charges, or fees
2 imposed by the government.

3 SEC. 47. *Mandatory Animal Welfare Education.* – It
4 shall be mandatory for all primary and secondary schools,
5 public and private, to integrate in their curriculum and
6 have activities on the following:

- 7 (a) The promotion and protection of animal welfare;
8 (b) Responsible pet ownership; and
9 (c) Concept of animal welfare.

10 SEC. 48. *Emergency Response.* – The Bureau shall
11 create and implement, in collaboration with the LGUs and
12 animal welfare NGOs, an inter-agency emergency response
13 program for rescuing and caring for animals in times
14 of calamity including but not limited to floods and
15 earthquakes. Such program shall include the
16 establishment and placing of animals in identified animal
17 evacuation centers, temporary shelters, and/or recognized
18 rescue centers, whether public or private, until the same is
19 claimed by their rightful owners or can be re-homed
20 appropriately.

1 The Bureau, through the LGUs, shall likewise
2 establish an emergency response system to rescue and/or
3 refer animals that are victims of abuse, cruelty, and
4 maltreatment to recognized animal shelters or facilities,
5 whether public or private.

6 SEC. 49. *Custody of Rescued Animals.* – Animal/s
7 seized or rescued from violators of this Act and its
8 guidelines, rules, and regulations may be held in custody
9 and referred to local government pound or shelter, or
10 Bureau-accredited animal facilities pending disposition of
11 administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings. For wildlife,
12 the same shall be referred to the DENR-BMB or its nearest
13 regional offices.

14 SEC. 50. *Role of LGUs and Other Government*
15 *Agencies.* – The LGUs shall support the Bureau in the
16 implementation of this Act by issuing necessary animal
17 welfare ordinances and implementing animal welfare
18 programs in coordination with the Bureau, including the
19 provision of veterinary access and the conduct of
20 mandatory spay and neutering to control dog and cat

1 populations. Other government agencies handling animals
2 shall adopt and implement animal welfare standards,
3 policies, rules, and regulations in their operations
4 consistent with this Act.

5 Barangays shall create their own Animal Welfare
6 Task Force and adopt programs consistent with the
7 provisions of this Act and its IRR.

8 SEC. 51. *Statutory Construction.* – This Act shall be
9 liberally construed in favor of the promotion and protection
10 of animal welfare.

11 SEC. 52. *Transition Period.* – During the transition
12 period, within one (1) year from effectivity hereof, the
13 existing BAI shall remain to be the supervisory and
14 regulatory authority in the implementation of the
15 provisions of this Act and shall manage, supervise turn
16 over, and monitor the establishment of the Bureau until
17 the same becomes operational. It shall ensure including
18 the assignment and appointment of necessary personnel
19 and staff during the transition.

1 SEC. 53. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or
2 provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid,
3 the other portions or provisions not affected shall continue
4 to be in full force and effect.

5 SEC. 54. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, rules,
6 and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
7 are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

8 SEC. 55. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
9 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or
10 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,