

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1974



Introduced by Representatives
Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As people population increases, animal population follows suit. Not to mention the different kinds of beastly brutes, constituted by wild, domesticated and domestic animals. Since animals do not undergo formal education like humans, and considering that they can be easy carriers of diseases and infections that can be passed on to humans, the proper regulation of the animal industry is crucial.

Regulatory functions, such as, but not limited to, conducting scientific investigations in accord with the implementation of statutes and regulations for the protection of the public from infections, diseases and contaminated meat products should be considered as utmost priorities.

In congruence thereto, this bill seeks to strengthen the animal industry and veterinary services in the Philippines by promoting and protecting animal health and welfare; recognizing the importance of efficient delivery of sanitary measures; establishing a modern and responsive national veterinary authority; encouraging the participation of various veterinary service providers and secure the development of the animal industry in the attainment of greater safeguards and food security for the country's animal and human populations; improving public health and environment; and, enhancing global trade competitiveness.

This Act shall apply to all programs, activities, and undertakings of persons, corporations, associations, organizations, small-hold farmers, entities, or government agencies that directly or indirectly deals on animal health-related matters, animal welfare, related training and research use of veterinary drugs and genetic improvement of livestock.

The objectives of this bill are to protect human and environmental health from animal diseases, improve veterinary services, formulate policies for the promotion of animal health, institutionalize inter-agency, multi-sectoral and local government cooperation; animal food production safety, global livestock trade competitiveness, dynamic livestock breeding and farm production, among others.

To meet these objectives, the National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA) is created and tasked to implement the provisions of this measure up to the regional level. The NLVSA would be placed under the Department of Agriculture (DA), which will be chiefly responsible for overseeing and promoting the health, welfare and productivity of the national animal population. The DA, as an administrative agency of the government is comprised by experts in a specific field of specialization under its jurisdiction. Hence, the decision to place the aforesaid establishment under the supervision of the said agency certainly augurs well for the proposed bill.

The NVLSA shall have regulatory authority on all facets of the animal industry, providing technical assistance and supervision pursuant to the same. The agency shall have visitorial


powers through its duly authorized veterinary officers and shall have the authority for "Declaration of Quarantine" and the power of "seizure and confiscation," to name a few.

Moreover the Committee on Animal Welfare (CAW), created under Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998" shall be renamed, henceforth known as the "National Advisory Committee for the Welfare of Animals," to be chaired by a representative from the private sector, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the DA. This newly-named office shall be responsible for the formulation of rules and regulations for the strict implementation of the provisions of this Act and R.A. No. 8485.

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



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This bill is a re-file of House Bill No. 1557, filed during the 16th Congress and referred to stakeholders on February 24, 2014.

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND VETERINARY SERVICES IN THE
PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK AND
VETERINARY SERVICES AUTHORITY

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

Chapter I

INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Animal Industry and Veterinary Services Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It shall be the policy of the State to promote and protect animal health and welfare, recognize the importance of efficient delivery of sanitary measures, establish a modern and responsive national veterinary authority, encourage the participation of various veterinary service providers, and secure the development of the animal industry in the attainment of greater safeguards and food security for the country's animal and human populations, improved public health and environment, and enhanced global trade competitiveness.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* This Act shall apply to all programs, activities and undertakings of persons, corporations, associations, organizations, small-hold farmers, entities, or government agencies that, directly or indirectly, deals on:

1. Animal health related matters such as, but not limited to:
 - a. animal and zoonotic disease diagnosis, treatment, prevention, control and eradication;
 - b. early detection systems and compulsory reporting of important animal diseases and zoonoses;
 - c. inspection and monitoring of (i) animals, animal products, and by-products, (ii) animal facilities, premises, equipment, means of transportation and other inanimate things in contact with animals and/or animal products, (iii) animal feeds, feed ingredients, supplements and additives, (iv) veterinary drugs, veterinary biological and immunological products, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices;
2. Animal welfare;
3. Training and research on animal health and welfare, marketing and extension services, and product development;
4. Rational and judicious use of veterinary drugs, veterinary biologicals and diagnostic reagents in animals; and

5. Management, genetic improvement and operations of beef cattle, poultry and small ruminant farms of the government for conservation of native domestic breeds.

SECTION 4. Objectives. The State shall endeavor to achieve the following objectives:

1. To protect human and environmental health from hazards caused by animal diseases and zoonoses;
2. To establish a modern and responsive veterinary services;
3. To formulate, promote, enforce, implement rules, policies and programs for the promotion of animal health, animal welfare and environment-friendly animal production processes;
4. To institutionalize inter-agency, multi-sectoral and local government cooperation on animal health and veterinary service programs;
5. To ensure animal food production safety and food security in support of poverty alleviation;
6. To guarantee compliance and harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and other veterinary protocols with international standards;
7. To promote an environment of global livestock trade competitiveness;
8. To establish nucleus and multiplier livestock breeder and production farms in support of the government's modernization programs in agriculture.

SECTION 5. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the following terms and phrases shall mean as follows:

Accreditation – refers to the procedure by which government agency having jurisdiction formally recognizes the competence of an inspection and/or certification services.

Agribusiness – refers to the various businesses involved in food production, including farming, breed and feed supply, agrichemicals, farm and processing machinery, wholesale and distribution, processing, marketing and retail sales. It also means making a “simple farmer” or “small backyard operator” into an “entrepreneur,” by legalizing their business venture with distinct identity and by developing their own competitive edge in the industry group where they belong.

Animal – refers to vertebrate and invertebrate species whether domestic or wild (exotic or indigenous) animals which may be food producing, companion, aquatic, laboratory including birds, worms, bees and butterflies. The term excludes human and non-mammalian aquatic species.

Animal effects – means litter or manure, hay, fodder or the like, used as blankets, chains, harnesses, ropes, buckets, boxes, or crates and the like used by the animal.

Animal facility – refers to temporary or permanent structures or premises generally used for purposes of caring, breeding, rearing holding, gaming, training, trading, transporting, treating, testing and exhibiting animals, such as, but not limited to farms, zoos, aviaries, apiaries, kennels, racetracks, cockpits, pet shops, pounds, animal rescue centers, airport and seaport quarantine stations, animal holding facilities including those found in ports, railways and bus stations, stables, livestock auction markets, slaughterhouses, veterinary clinics, and veterinary hospitals.

Animal feeds – refers to a mixture or combination of feed ingredients, supplements and additives, in any form, by specific formula to be fed directly as a sole ration to animals which is capable of furnishing the nutritional needs or requirements of the animal in order to maintain life, promote growth, production and reproduction without any additional substance except water.

Animal health – refers to the overall physical condition and well-being of animal(s).

- 1 *Animal Health Technician* – a properly trained person who is authorized to carry out
2 designated tasks related to veterinary medicine under the immediate supervision
3 of a veterinarian.
- 4 *Animal Identification* – refers to the combination of the identification and registration of
5 an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its
6 epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier.
- 7 *Animal Identification System* – refers to the inclusion and linking of component such as
8 identification of establishments, owners, person or persons responsible for the
9 animal(s), animal movements and other records with an animal identification.
- 10 *Animal Industry* – refers to any activity relating to the production, breeding, caring,
11 rearing, holding, trading, transporting and use of all animals; animal processing,
12 marketing and feed milling.
- 13 *Animal Production Food Safety and Security* – refers to measures taken in farms and
14 production areas to safeguard the health of the consuming public and ensure
15 that the food derived therefrom is safe and of sufficient quantity or supply. This
16 includes measures taken to regulate and control the introduction of non-food
17 animals to the food chain.
- 18 *Animal products and by-products* – refer to any meat, fat, milk, whey, cream, butter,
19 cheese, egg or other food or foodstuff derived from an animal; or any part of the
20 viscera of an animal, hide, skin, hair, wool, feathers, shell, horn or hoof; or any
21 article or substance derived from dung, urine, feces, bone, or blood of an animal;
22 or any secretion of an animal or any product or biological preparation made or
23 derived from any animal tissue or animal secretion; or any article or substance
24 derived from an animal such as semen, whether or not in combination with any
25 article or substance; or any article or substance or thing that is declared by order
26 to be an animal product for the purposes of this Act.
- 27 *Animal Registry* – refers to the list of information on animals (such as identification,
28 animal health, movement, certification, epidemiology, establishments) collected,
29 recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to be
30 utilized by the National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA), and
31 its stakeholders as described hereunder in Section 6, Chapter II.
- 32 *Border Post* – refers to any airport, seaport, railway station or road check-point open to
33 domestic and international trade of commodities, where veterinary inspections
34 are performed.
- 35 *Buffer Zone* – refers to an area established to protect the health status of animals in a
36 disease-free country or disease-free zones, from those in a country or zone of a
37 different animal health status, using measures based on the epidemiology of the
38 disease under consideration to prevent spread of the causative pathogenic agent
39 into a free country or a free zone. These measures may include, but are not
40 limited to, vaccination, movement control and intensified degree of disease
41 surveillance.
- 42 *Certification* – refers to the procedure by which official certification bodies or officially
43 recognized certification bodies provide written or equivalent assurance that
44 animal control systems conform to requirements.
- 45 *Chief Veterinary Officer* – refers to a veterinarian who has the responsibility and
46 competence of ensuring and supervising the implementation of animal health and
47 welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and
48 guidelines in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organization for
49 Animal Health or *Organization International des Epizooties (OIE)* in the entire
50 country.

- 1 *Communicable Animal Diseases* – refer to diseases which are transmissible from one
2 animal to another.
- 3 *Compartment* – refers to one or more establishments under a common biosecurity
4 management system containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health
5 status with respect to a specific disease or diseases for which required
6 surveillance, control, biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of
7 international trade.
- 8 *Competent Authority* – refers to the NLVSA which is the official authority charged by the
9 government in the control of animal health, welfare, animal production food
10 safety and veterinary services.
- 11 *Confiscation* – refers to taking into custody of animals, animal parts and/or products,
12 and/or of animal effects by the competent authority for its proper disposal for
13 having been the subject of violation of rules and regulations or posing risk to
14 general human and animal welfare.
- 15 *Control Area or Zone* – refers to an area around an infected area where restrictions will
16 reduce and/or limit the chance of further spreading the disease.
- 17 *Diseases* – refer to the impairment of normal state of living animals showing sub-clinical,
18 clinical/pathological manifestation with infectious and non-infectious condition.
- 19 *Domestic movement* – refers to the transfer/transport of animals, animal products, by-
20 products and effects within the country.
- 21 *Down time* – refers to the waiting period and biosecurity measures prescribed by the
22 owner or management approved by the NLVSA for people to observe before
23 entering the premises of any animal farm/establishment to prevent the entry of
24 animal diseases.
- 25 *Early detection system* – refers to a system for the timely detection and identification of
26 animal and zoonotic diseases which includes the following characteristics,
27 namely: (a) representative coverage of target animal populations by veterinary
28 field services; (b) ability to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting;
29 (c) access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant
30 diseases; and (d) training program for veterinarians and animal health
31 technicians for detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence.
- 32 *Emerging Disease* – refers to a new infection resulting from the evolution or change of an
33 existing pathogenic agent, a known infection spreading to a new geographic area
34 or population, or a previously unrecognizable pathogenic agent or disease
35 diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or
36 public health.
- 37 *Epidemiology* – refers to the science concerned with the study of factors determining and
38 influencing the frequency and distribution of disease, injury and other health-
39 related events and their causes in a defined population.
- 40 *Equivalence of Sanitary Measures* – refers to the state wherein the sanitary measure(s)
41 proposed by the exporting country as an alternative to those of the importing
42 country achieve(s) the same level of protection.
- 43 *Eradication* – refers to the elimination of a pathogenic agent or disease from the country
44 or zone/area/region.
- 45 *Establishment* – refers to entities engaged in the manufacture, production, preparation,
46 handling, importation, exportation, sale, storage, offer for sale, distribution,
47 transfer, use, testing, promotion, advertising or sponsorship of animals, animal

products and by-products, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary cosmetics, and veterinary devices.

Exportation – refers to the transportation of commodities such as live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products from the Philippines to another country.

Exotic/Foreign Animal Diseases – refer to any disease known to exist in foreign countries which are likely to be introduced in the country through importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products or animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products.

Free Ingredients – refer to all articles, in any form, that are added or mixed into the composition or which are used as raw materials in the formulation of a feed or ration, base feed, base mix, concentrate, feed supplement, feed additive, specialty feed and/or special feed preparation purporting to supply additional nutrients, such as, but not limited to, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, vitamins, growth promoting factors and/or correcting nutritional disorders.

Free Zone – refers to an area which the absence of the disease under the consideration has been complied in accordance with the requirements specified in the Terrestrial Code of the OIE for free status being met. Within the zone and at its borders, appropriate official veterinary control is effectively applied for animals and animal products, and their transportation.

Governance – refers to the process by which the Philippine government (national, regional and local), private sector, industry associations and other stakeholders collectively solve the problems, needs and concerns of the animal industry.

Hazard – refers to a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or a condition of an animal or animal product with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.

Importation – refers to the bringing into the country commodities such as live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products from foreign countries.

Indemnification – refers to the payment for any loss of animals or damage to its by-products in accordance with the guidelines established by the Veterinary Authority.

Infected Zone – refers to an area in which the disease under consideration is present.

International Veterinary Certificate – Otherwise called as Veterinary Health Certificate, refers to the document issued by the Veterinary Quarantine Service Officers specifying among others therein that the animals, animal products and by-products or animal effects intended for international or domestic transport are free from any communicable animal diseases or are not carriers thereof.

Livestock – refer to food animals including poultry.

Livestock Agribusiness Marketing – refers to the critical roles marketing plays in the successful operation of an agribusiness firm by focusing on the six major parts of agribusiness marketing system such as: 1) the agricultural input industries; 2) the impact of technology-induces changes on production practices and the need for marketing awareness on the part of farmers as a way to achieve greater profitability; 3) the commodity processing and food manufacturing industries; 4) the food wholesaling and retailing industries; 5) the food service industry; and 6) cooperative agribusiness.

1 *Livestock Marketing System* – refers to livestock economics system that relies upon the
2 markets and market forces to allocate resources and goods to determine prices
3 and quantities of each product that will be produced.

4 *Marketing* – refers to the process of planning the conception, pricing, promotion and
5 distribution of goods and services to create exchanges that satisfy individual and
6 organizational objectives.

7 *Market Infrastructure* – refers to facilities including, but not limited to, livestock “oksyon”
8 market, wet/public market buildings, weighing scale center, holding pens,
9 warehouses, market information centers, slaughterhouses, connecting roads,
10 transport and communication and cold storage used by the livestock farmers in
11 marketing their produce.

12 *Marketing Information System* – refers to an information system concerned with the
13 collection, storage and analysis of information and data for marketing decision
14 making purposes. Information for use in marketing information systems is
15 gathered from customers, competitors and their products, and from the market
16 itself.

17 *Marketing Intelligence* – refers to data/information obtained both publicly and privately
18 by market players that reflect a myriad of factors regarding prices, stocks, trends,
19 government policies affecting supply or demand, production and consumption of
20 products, by-products and allied products in an industry, e.g. animal industry, to
21 achieve a marketing or business-related competitiveness.

22 *Market Research* – refers to the identification of a specific market and measurement of its
23 size and other characteristics collected from direct observation of the consumers
24 (such as in retail stores), mail surveys, telephone or face-to-face interviews, and
25 from published sources (such as demographic data).

26 *Notifiable Disease* – refers to disease listed by the Veterinary Authority, and that, as soon
27 as detected or suspected, must be brought to the attention of the Veterinary
28 Authority, in accordance with national regulations.

29 *Notification* – refers to the procedure by which the Local Veterinary Authority informs the
30 National Veterinary Authority of the occurrence of an outbreak of disease or
31 infection.

32 *OIE (Office Internationale des Epizooties)* or the World Organization for Animal Health – is
33 the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health
34 worldwide. It is recognized as a reference organization by the World Trade
35 Organization (WTO).

36 *Poultry* – includes chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, gamefowls, ducks, geese, quails,
37 pigeons, pheasants, partridges, and ratites reared or kept in captivity for
38 breeding, production of meat or eggs for consumption or for re-stocking supplies
39 of game.

40 *Production processes* – refer to the transformational steps in the conversion of raw
41 materials to finished products.

42 *Professional Regulation Commission – Board of Veterinary Medicine (PRC-VBM)* – refers to
43 an autonomous authority regulating veterinarians and animal health technicians.

44 *Quarantine* – refers to the act of isolating animals from other animals with no direct or
45 indirect contact with other animals to prevent the transmission of specified
46 pathogen(s) while the animals are undergoing observation and, if appropriate,
47 testing and treatment, for a specified length of time and/or to determine their
48 freedom from disease.

Quarantine Station – refers to a facility under the control of the veterinary service authority where animals are maintained in isolation with no direct contact or indirect contact with other animals to ensure that there is no transmission of specified pathogen(s) outside the establishment while the animals are undergoing observation for a specified length of time and, if appropriate, testing and treatment.

Risk – refers to the likelihood of the occurrence and the likely magnitude of consequences of an adverse event to animal or human health in the importing country during a specified time period as a result of hazardous elements.

Risk Analysis – refers to the process composed of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Risk Communication – refers to the interactive exchange of information on risk among risk assessors, risk managers and other interested parties.

Risk Management – refers to the process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of risk.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – defined as measures applied to (a) protect human or animal life from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in their food; (b) protect human life from plant- or animal-carried diseases; (c) protect animal or plant life from pests, diseases, or disease-causing organisms; and (d) prevent or limit other damage to a country from the entry, establishment or spread of pests. This also includes SPS measures taken to protect the health of fish and wild fauna, as well as of forests and wild flora.

Shipping Permit – refers to the document issued by the NLVSA authorizing the person indicated therein to ship or transport the stated items to their indicated destination(s).

Third party certification or independent certification is defined as when a firm requires that its suppliers meet a certain standard and requests an independent organization that is not involved in the business relationship to control the compliance of suppliers.

Traceability – refers to the ability to follow or monitor the history/record of an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life.

Transshipment – refers to the shipment of goods or containers to an intermediate destination and then from there to yet another destination.

Vaccination – refers to the successful immunization of susceptible animals through the administration of appropriate immunizing agents comprising of antigens or bacterins or any agent appropriate to the disease to be controlled.

Veterinarian – refers to a person who has been registered and issued a valid certificate of registration and professional identification card by the Professional Regulatory Commission Board of Veterinary Medicine of the Philippines.

Veterinary Authority – refers to the government authority, comprising of duly licensed veterinarians, having the responsibility and competence of ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the Terrestrial Code of the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health).

Veterinary Biological Products – refer to all microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, etc.), components or products of microorganisms, antigens, antisera, bacterins, immunoglobulins, and analogous products of natural or of synthetic origin, including genetically modified organisms, diagnostic kits and reagents,

serums, toxins and antitoxins intended for use in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of animal diseases and for research purposes.

Veterinary Cosmetics – refer to any substance or preparation intended to be placed in contact with the various external parts of the animal body or with the teeth, mucous membranes of the oral cavity, with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance and/or correcting the body odor, and/or protecting the body or keeping the same in good condition.

Veterinary Devices – refer to any instruments, apparatuses, implements, machines, appliances or contrivances, including their components, parts and accessories intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment and prevention of animal diseases or to affect the structure or any function of the body of animals.

Veterinary Drugs – refer to articles for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of diseases of animals.

Veterinary Products – as used in this Act, shall collectively refer to veterinary biologicals, veterinary drugs, veterinary devices and veterinary cosmetics as defined herein and to other substances applied to animal facilities such as, but not limited to, disinfectants, insecticides, and substances that modify or extend physiological functions, behaviors or availability such as, but not limited to, hormones, growth promotants, stimulants, enhancers, probiotics, and acidifiers.

Veterinary Officer – refers to a duly licensed veterinarian employed or deputized by the Director General of the NLVSA specifically tasked to investigate, diagnose, and control animal diseases including the performance of such duties and functions provided in this Act and other laws.

Veterinary Services – refer to the activities in the implementation of animal health, welfare, feed control and animal production food safety by government and non-government organizations.

Zone/Region – refers to a clearly defined part of the country containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

Zoonosis – refers to any disease or infection which is naturally transmissible from animals to humans vice versa.

Chapter II

STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

SECTION 6. *The National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA).* The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) shall be renamed as the “National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA)”, an attached line agency up to the regional level under the Department of Agriculture, primarily responsible for the regulation of the health, welfare, and productivity of the national animal population.

The NLVSA shall be headed by a Director General, with the rank of undersecretary, who must possess a minimum experience of ten (10) years in practice as a duly licensed veterinarian. He shall be assisted by a Deputy Director General for Regulatory Services and a Deputy Director General for Research, Development and Extension Services, who, likewise, must both possess a minimum experience of ten (10) years practice as a duly licensed veterinarian.

The Director General and Deputy Directors General shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, while, the Center Directors, Regional Directors and Director for Administrative Support Services, shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. All

1 personnel below the Director and Regional Director levels shall be appointed by the Director
2 General.

3 **SECTION 7. Power and Functions.** The NLVSA shall have the following principal powers
4 through the Director General or his duly designated representative:
5

- 6 1. *Regulatory Authority.* The NLVSA shall have authority to regulate animal health,
7 animal welfare, animal production food safety and matters connected or
8 pertaining to, but not limited to, general sanitary measures, risk analysis, animal
9 quarantine and inspection, diagnosis of diseases, animal feeds and feed
10 ingredients, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products, and other
11 pharmaceuticals and products used on animals and the environment, animal
12 facilities, equipments, veterinary devices and veterinary cosmetics, veterinary
13 research, animal production and international certification procedures.
14
- 15 2. *Technical Assistance and Supervision.* The NLVSA shall provide technical training
16 for capacity building and strengthening of livestock and veterinary services
17 related functions of all national government agencies and Local Government
18 Units (LGUs). It shall exercise technical supervision over veterinary offices and
19 veterinary-related functions of all national government agencies and LGUs. This
20 includes oversight authority to require mandatory notification and coordination,
21 submission of reports and other pertinent data regarding animal disease
22 situations, within the respective areas of jurisdictions of other government
23 agencies and LGUs.
24
- 25 3. *Assumption of Control.* The NLVSA is authorized, subject to the approval of the
26 Secretary of Agriculture and as recommended by the National Advisory
27 Committee on Animal Diseases and Emergency (NAC-ADE), as hereunder
28 described in Sections 14 and 15, Chapter IV, to assume full control and direction
29 in the management of local and regional outbreaks of dangerous communicable
30 and zoonotic animal diseases, where the animal and/or human health status of
31 the country is in actual or imminent danger.
32
33 The NLVSA shall make the proper coordination with the concerned LGU
34 and regional officials of other agencies on its activities.
35
- 36 4. *Visitorial Power.* The NLVSA, through its duly authorized personnel, upon
37 presenting appropriate credentials or authority to the owner, manager, or any
38 person-in-charge and after following reasonable down time requirements duly
39 approved by the NLVSA, shall have the power to enter and inspect the premises
40 of livestock and poultry farms and other animal establishments, conduct
41 collection of laboratory specimens and samples with proper description and
42 receipt of those taken, and when required by circumstances and as authorized by
43 the Director General, impose preventive and control measures therein, in
44 coordination with concerned owners and caretakers.
45
- 46 5. *Declaration of Quarantine.* The Director General, through a written order of
47 quarantine, shall cause the immediate seizure, holding or detention for thirty (30)
48 days or for such longer period, if necessary, for observation and/or mandatory
49 testing of animals, animal parts, products and by-products, animal feeds, feed
50 ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biological products,
51 veterinary drugs, products and veterinary devices, and such other materials or
52 substances which are suspected or deemed to be affected with or carriers of
53 dangerous animal diseases or found to be undocumented, or of unknown source
54 and conditions, and posing an imminent danger, threat and injury to the overall
55 animal health situation in the country.
56
- 57 6. *Confiscation and Disposal.* The NLVSA, through appropriate destruction order,
58 shall have the authority to immediately confiscate and dispose of animals, animal
59 parts, products and by-products, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed
60 supplements/additives, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs, products

1 and veterinary devices, and such other materials or substances that are declared
2 prohibited or banned; or showing signs and symptoms of dangerous animal
3 diseases; or, in case of animal feeds, veterinary drugs, biological and other
4 materials or substances, tested positive for adulteration, or contamination of
5 toxic chemicals or substances.
6

7 Articles or items that are undocumented, or of unknown source and
8 conditions, not covered in the preceding paragraph which the possessor, owner,
9 consignee or importer, as the case may be, failed to substantiate through
10 submission of requisite documents, or establish the origin thereof and its
11 compliance with pertinent regulations within seventy-two (72) hours from
12 quarantine shall, likewise, be subject to confiscation and appropriate disposal.
13

- 14 7. *Call for Assistance.* The Director General may call upon any government agency
15 for any form of assistance consistent with its powers, duties and responsibilities
16 for the purpose of ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of this Act
17 and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder.
18
- 19 8. *Subsidiary Legislation.* The Secretary of Agriculture, upon the recommendation of
20 the NLVSA, shall issue rules and regulations to implement and enforce the
21 provisions of this Act.
22
- 23 9. *Delegation.* The NLVSA shall have the authority to deputize local government and
24 private veterinarians to perform disease control measures to obviate any animal
25 welfare concerns and animal health matters for proper implementation of
26 national disease control policies and programs at all levels. The Director General
27 (DG) shall deputize Animal Welfare Officers from Non-Government Organizations
28 (NGOs), citizens groups, community organizations and other volunteers who have
29 undergone the necessary training and accreditation for this purpose. As such,
30 the Animal Welfare Officers shall have the full authority to seize and confiscate
31 affected animals in violation of the provisions of this Act, subject to existing rules
32 and regulations on arrest and detention.
33
- 34 10. *Emergency Response.* The NLVSA shall establish an emergency preparedness
35 plan to ensure the safety and protection of the animal population in the event of
36 natural and man-made disasters.
37

38 **SECTION 8. Organizational Structure.** The administrative, technical, finance and
39 support services of the NLVSA shall be strengthened as may be appropriate and necessary to
40 carry out effectively the provisions of this Act. Various Centers shall be established under the
41 NLVSA and each Center shall be headed by a Director, who must possess a minimum practice
42 of five (5) years as a veterinarian, with supervisory experience in any related field. Each Center
43 shall include divisions which shall be headed by a division chief with minimum management
44 experience of three (3) years.

45 1. **Center for Animal Health and Welfare (CAWH)** – This Center shall be responsible for
46 veterinary epidemiology, animal disease surveillance system, animal disease prevention,
47 control and eradication programs, risk analysis, herd health management, animal
48 welfare and animal health information.

49 CAWH shall have the following divisions: (a) Veterinary Epidemiology and
50 Economics; (b) Animal Disease Control and Veterinary Public Health; (c) Animal Welfare;
51 and (d) Animal Health Information and Communication.

52 2. **Center for Veterinary Quarantine Services (CVQS)** – This Center shall be primarily
53 responsible in issuing import and export certifications, conducting pre- and post-border
54 inspections and monitoring, accreditation, quarantine, and, if warranted by biosecurity
55 procedures, instituting immediate seizure and/or confiscation and destruction or
56 disposal of animals, animal parts, products and by-products, animal feeds, feed
57 ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biological products,
58 veterinary drugs/products and veterinary devices, and such other materials or

substances posing threat or harm to animal health. The Center shall also be responsible for the maintenance of quarantine stations and enforcement of animal quarantine and welfare rules and regulations in the various inland and offshore shipping routes of the country.

CVQS shall have the following divisions: (a) Sanitary and PhytoSanitary Trade Facilitation; (b) Veterinary Quarantine Inspection and Monitoring; and (c) Biosecurity.

3. Center for Animal Disease Diagnosis (CADD) – This Center shall primarily conduct laboratory diagnosis of animal diseases and act as a repository date on disease diagnosis. It shall be responsible for the establishment and management of regional veterinary diagnostic and other specialized laboratories, including the certification/accreditation of private and government animal disease diagnostic laboratories and the monitoring of same. CADD shall also be the National Reference Center for Animal Disease Diagnosis.

CADD shall have the following divisions: (a) Pathobiology; (b) Bactriology and Mycobiology; (c) Virology; (d) Laboratory Standards and Compliance; and (e) National Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Information Management and Coordination.

4. Center for Animal Feeds, Veterinary Products and Establishments Regulation (CAFVPER) – This Center shall regulate the manufacture, production, importation, exportation, distribution handling sale, offer for sale, transfer, promotion, advertisement, the use and testing of pre-mixes, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplement and feed additives, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products, veterinary cosmetics, and veterinary devices and all other types of veterinary products and establishments. It shall likewise conduct assays on the quality, safety, potency and efficacy of these products and veterinary drug residues in animal products except meat.

CAFVPER shall include the following divisions: (a) Registration, Licensing, and Accreditation; (b) Inspection and Compliance; and (c) Laboratory Services.

5. Animal Genetic Resource Management and Improvement Center (AGRMIC) – This Center shall be responsible for formulating policies and programs for sustainable animal genetic resources of domestic animals. It shall prepare in consultation with various stakeholders the national strategy and action plan for the use, development, and conservation of animal genetic resources, in particular, the native food animals.

AGRMIC shall have the following divisions: (a) Breed Registry and Central Data Management; (b) Gene Bank; (c) Native Pigs; (d) Native Poultry; (e) Native Cattle, Goat, and Sheep; and (f) Native Horses.

6. Center for Animal Research and Product Development (CARPD) – This Center shall address the national agenda for all researches on animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety and security in coordination, collaboration and consultation with international and local agencies and stakeholders.

It shall also be responsible for the generation of technology. Technology adaptation and demonstration necessary for maximum utilization of available resources in accordance with the requirements of the national animal research, production and development agenda and shall also serve as repository of all animal research and scientific information.

CARPD shall have the following divisions: (a) Animal Production Research; (b) Veterinary Product Research and Standards Development; and (c) Animal Product Development.

7. Center for Livestock Trade Promotion and Development (CLTPD) – This Center shall be primarily responsible for the promotion of the national agenda for the development and implementation of sustainable livestock business development, animal industry strategic management, animal supply chain management, animal knowledge

and information network, participatory governance, animal market and post-production development and animal market infrastructure and animal statistics and marketing intelligence, animal marketing system programs and activities.

CLTPD shall have the following divisions: (a) Livestock Business and Industry Strategic Development; (b) Market and Post-Production Development; and (c) Socio-Economic and Marketing Research.

SECTION 9. *Administrative Support Services.* The NLVSA shall be assisted by an Administrative Support Services which shall be headed by Director and Regional Chiefs of Division, who must possess a minimum management experience of five (5) years and three (3) years in any related field, respectively. It shall have the following divisions or units, as may be applicable, to wit: (a) Assets and Finance; (b) Human Resource Development; (c) Property and Logistics Management; (d) Legal Support Services; (e) Monitoring and Evaluation; (f) Planning and International Desk; and (g) Information and Communication Technology Management.

SECTION 10. *Regional Livestock and Veterinary Services Offices (RLVSOs)* – Regional Livestock and Veterinary Services Office of the NLVSA shall be created at the regional level to be headed by the Regional Director, who must possess a minimum experience of ten (10) years as a veterinarian. Each office shall be supported by such number of divisions as may be necessary in the performance of regional operations.

All existing DA regional staff performing veterinary services and functions are hereby transferred to the RLVSO.

Chapter III

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER, VETERINARY OFFICERS, AND ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS

SECTION 11. *Chief Veterinary Officer.* The Director General of the NLVSA shall be the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of the country. He shall be primarily responsible in the formulation and implementation of national policies, strategies, priorities and action plans on animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety. He shall also represent the country in official international dialogue on animal health matters.

The CVO shall coordinate and, as much as possible, establish linkages with allied government agencies, the private sector and academe in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control and eradication to ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.

The CVO shall also endeavor to address current, recurring, new and prospective national issues and concerns on animal health, animal welfare, safe animal feed and animal food production safety and security, with regional and global impact through the help of other allied government agencies and stakeholders.

SECTION 12. *Veterinary Officers (VOs) and Animal Health Technicians (AHTs).* The Director General of the NLVSA shall appoint or deputize veterinarians and other personnel under its employ as VO and AHT, respectively, under this Act. He shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the National and Regional VO.

When the interest of the service so requires, the VO shall be entitled to incentives, overtime fees and reimbursement of expenses for services rendered outside of office hours which shall be chargeable to the parties served, at the rates to be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture upon the recommendation of the Director General.

SECTION 13. *Magna Carta for Public Health Workers.* VOs, AHTs, and other veterinarians employed or deputized by the NLVSA, including their administrative and support personnel directly exposed to veterinary public health related activities shall be entitled to additional compensations and other benefits provided under Republic Act No. 7305, also known as the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers.

Chapter IV

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

SECTION 14. *National and Regional Advisory Committees for Animal Diseases and Emergency.* The existing National and Regional Advisory Committees on Animal Disease Control and Emergency (NAC-ADCE/RAC-ADCE), which were created in the advent of emerging diseases are hereby renamed and institutionalized in this Act as the National and Regional Advisory Committees on Animal Diseases and Emergency (NAC-ADE/RAC-ADE) under the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Chairperson of the NAC-ADE shall be a duly licensed veterinarian of good standing, competence and probity in the veterinary position, and a practicing veterinarian for at least ten (10) years with sufficient knowledge of the livestock industry and its animal health-related services. He shall be designated as such by the Secretary of Agriculture from the recommendation of the regular members from the private sector.

The manner in the filling up of the members of the committee and sub-committees shall be prescribed and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture upon recommendation of the Director General. The composition of the committee shall be updated from time to time and as may be needed by circumstance.

SECTION 15. *Duties and Functions.* The NAC-ADE and RAC-ADE shall submit their recommendations directly to the Secretary of Agriculture and perform the following duties and functions:

1. Recommend policies and measures on the following:
 - a. Risk analyses and import protocols, prevention, control, eradication, and monitoring of economically harmful animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases;
 - b. Procedures to be followed in times of emergencies, e.g. nationwide epidemic of food animal and zoonotic diseases and during disasters, either natural or man-made;
 - c. Verification of reports on emerging zoonotic animal diseases;
 - d. Support the CVO in sourcing funds from national and international funding agencies.
2. The NAC-ADE shall coordinate the activities of the various Regional Advisory Committee on Animal Diseases and Emergency (RAC-ADEs) which is the regional counterpart and have similar function advising the Secretary of Agriculture and the respective Regional Directors (RDs);
3. Create sub-committees to address special issues and concerns of the NLVSA and other agencies;
4. Assist in the review of policies, programs, and projects for the development of the National Veterinary Services;
5. Assist in the evaluation of the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the operations, programs, and projects of the NLVSA, as well as in the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 16. *National Advisory Committee for the Welfare of Animals (NACWA).* The CAW created under RA 8485 shall be renamed the NACWA which is a multi-agency/multi-sectoral committee. It shall be chaired by a representative from any of the private sector subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Committee shall be responsible for the formulation of rules and regulations for the strict implementation of the provisions of this Act and RA 8485.

The committee shall be composed of representatives from the following agencies/sectors:

- a. Department of Agriculture
- b. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- c. Department of Interior and Local Government

- d. Department of Education
- e. Provincial, City and Municipal Veterinarians' League of the Philippines
- f. Philippine Veterinary Medical Association
- g. Animal Welfare organizations
- h. Academe

SECTION 17. *Animal Feeds Advisory Committee (AFAC).* The Animal Feed Control Advisory Committee (AFCAC) created under Senate Bill No. 627 amending Republic Act No. 1556 adopted into law by Presidential Decree No. 7 in 1972, is hereby renamed Animal Feed Advisory Committee with eleven (11) members, the composition of which shall be modified to add three more members, namely: one legal representative from the NLVSA, one representative from the Legal Division of DA, and one representative from the Philippine College of Veterinary Feed Practitioners. The AFAC shall continue to exercise its functions in matters related to the animal feed industry, except as provided in Section 66 of SB No. 627 hereof.

SECTION 18. *Mandatory Review and Evaluation.* The recommendations of the NAC-ADE, NACWA, and AFAC shall be subject to mandatory review and evaluation by the Director General before the same are submitted for final approval by the Secretary of Agriculture.

SECTION 19. *Other Advisory Committees.* Other Advisory Committees may be created to assist the NLVSA in the implementation of its various programs and projects.

Chapter V

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND LOCAL VETERINARY OFFICES

SECTION 20. *LGU Assistance and Cooperation.* Local Government Units (LGUs) shall assist and closely cooperate with the NLVSA in the implementation of the provisions of this Act. They shall extend any available manpower, security, material and financial resources to any national animal disease prevention and control measures, animal welfare and other national programs being undertaken by the NLVSA within their respective jurisdictions.

SECTION 21. *Creation of Municipal Veterinary Positions.* The position of municipal veterinarian shall be mandatory in all first class municipalities and optional in other municipalities.

SECTION 22. *Responsibilities of Provincial, City, and Municipal Veterinarians.* In addition to the duties of veterinary officer as provided in Section 489 of Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the Local Government Code of 1991, it shall be the duty of veterinary officer as the case may be to:

1. Ensure the implementation of policies, rules, and regulations issued by the NLVSA and other coordinating agencies in accordance with the provisions of this Act and its related laws, rules, and regulations towards the enforcement of animal disease prevention, control measures and animal welfare regulations;
2. Extend assistance, as may be necessary, to the NLVSA in the implementation or enforcement of animal disease prevention and control measures, and animal welfare within their area of responsibility;
3. Comply with all reportorial and documentary requirements needed by the NLVSA in the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 23. *Issuance of Mayor's Permit.* No LGU shall issue any Mayor's Permit to operate any farm, clinic, animal facility, kennel, or any other veterinary establishment unless the owner/operator has secured clearance from the provincial, city or municipal veterinarian attesting to the fact that the establishment has complied with all the requirements prescribed under NLVSA rules and regulations.

Chapter VI

ROLE OF ALLIED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

SECTION 24. *Allied Government Agencies.* Allied government agencies that are performing veterinary services and related functions shall continue to do so. The Director General of the NLVSA as the national competent authority shall call upon other allied government agencies and academe in the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 25. *Other Agencies and Sectors.* The NLVSA shall establish agreements with other government sectors, private sectors, academe, and other relevant agencies and stakeholders in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control, eradication and to ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.

SECTION 26. *Responsibilities.* All government agencies and private entities performing veterinary and related functions shall cooperate fully with the Director General (CVO) and comply with the set policies and technical standards for veterinary services.

Chapter VII

ANIMAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY

SECTION 27. *Duty to Report Notifiable Diseases.* All animal and livestock producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, animal facility operators and farm consultants who have in their possession or care, animals or animal products infected or suspected to be infected or have reasonable grounds to believe that the animal or animal product is infected with a Notifiable Disease are duty bound to report to the concerned Local Government Unit – Veterinary Office or to the NLVSA or to the RLVSU immediately within 24 hours by the quickest means possible.

These notifiable diseases include, among others, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF, Hog Cholera), Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Newcastle Disease (ND) or Avian Pest, Rabies, Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE), Anthrax, and Hemorrhagic Septicemia.

The NLVSA shall provide a complete list of Notifiable Diseases and their reporting guidelines, which shall be updated from time to time.

SECTION 28. *Proper Disposal of Dead Animals and Potentially Infective Materials.* Dead animals, manure, and other potentially infective materials from regular operations of farms, clinics, and animal facilities shall be disposed in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations and guidelines set by the NLVSA.

SECTION 29. *Animal Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology.* All agencies performing veterinary services shall be responsible in monitoring animal disease situations by conducting regular surveillance of the animal and livestock population in their respective jurisdictions and are required to report periodically to the NLVSA.

SECTION 30. *National Registry, Animal Identification and Traceability of Livestock.* A national registry of animal facilities and establishments shall be established by the NLVSA. An animal identification system shall also be developed to be able to trace the origin of each animal or groups of animals. The NLVSA, in consultation with livestock stakeholders, shall also establish farm classification system in accordance with accepted standards and parameters.

SECTION 31. *Mandatory Vaccination.* To prevent, control, and eradicate emerging or re-emerging communicable and exotic diseases, all animals shall have to be vaccinated in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of this Act. In case of refusal to vaccinate despite due notice, the NLVSA shall have the authority to require the LGU concerned to revoke the Mayor's and Business Permits issued for the operation of the establishment.

SECTION 32. *Emergency Preparedness.* The NLVSA shall draft the National Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Plans in response to animal health, welfare and animal production food safety. Measures shall also be developed to mitigate the effect of climate change in the livestock industry.

SECTION 33. *Animal Welfare Practices.* All animal producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, animal facility operators and farm consultants who have, in their possession or care, animals, shall adopt and observe animal welfare regulations and practices.

SECTION 34. *Animal Health, Welfare and Animal Production Food Safety Information System.* The NLVSA shall develop a more effective animal health information system involving agencies and other stakeholders on animal health, welfare and animal production food safety, including establishment of an effective information network.

SECTION 35. *Risk Analysis.* Principles of risk analysis shall be incorporated in all policy formulation and standard setting such as, but not limited to, the importation of animals, animal products and by-products, veterinary biological products, animal feeds and animal effects.

SECTION 36. *Veterinary Public Health.* The NLVSA shall take the lead role in the formulation and implementation of veterinary public health programs and activities, particularly in the prevention and control of zoonoses and food safety.

SECTION 37. *Mandatory Engagement of the Professional Services of a Veterinarian.* All animal establishments such as, but not limited to, farms, zoos, kennels, apiaries, aviaries, livestock markets, animal race tracks and cockpits shall engage the professional services of a veterinarian based on minimum number of animals and other parameters to be prescribed by the NLVSA, in consultation with concerned sectors.

SECTION 38. *Farm Inspection and Certification.* The NLVSA, in consultation with stakeholders, shall establish standards and parameters on farm inspection and certification.

Chapter VIII

QUARANTINE MEASURES AND FACILITIES

SECTION 39. *Border Post Entry.* The importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices, and other potential vectors of animal diseases shall be subjected to veterinary inspection at ports of entry and, if warranted, placed under quarantine and tested as may be deemed appropriate and necessary. Such importation must comply with prescribed documents such as, but not limited to, (1) an Authority to Import duly issued by the NLVSA and secured prior to the importation, and (2) an International Health Certificate and/or Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) Clearance, or its equivalent, and such other documents as may be required by the NLVSA to be obtained from the proper authorities of the country of origin.

SECTION 40. *Boarding Inspection of Carriers.* All vessels and planes, domestic or international, are subject to boarding inspection upon arrival, and before departure, for any unloaded and undeclared importation, unauthorized exportation, or local shipment of regulated or prohibited animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological, veterinary cosmetic and veterinary devices, and other potential vectors of animal diseases. The captain, master or skipper, other officers and crew members, and agent of such carriers shall render assistance as the Veterinary Officer and his deputies may reasonably request to facilitate the discharge and disposal of illegal articles.

SECTION 41. *Release from Customs Zone.* The Bureau of Customs or its representative shall not allow the release of any article of importation that is subject to veterinary inspection, quarantine and examination procedures unless the NLVSA or its duly authorized representative has issued a Veterinary Quarantine Compliance Certificate or Lifting of Quarantine for the particular shipment, as the case may be.

SECTION 42. *Prohibited Importation.* No importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, and other related products (e.g. fodder crops, forage, etc.) shall be allowed from countries known or declared to be infected with a dangerous communicable animal disease or diseases which has been banned to export the said products to the Philippines and where there is a possible danger of spreading or introducing such disease or

diseases into the Philippines by the importation of such item. All in-transit shipments at the time of the occurrence of the foreign disease or contagion shall be subjected to strict quarantine and laboratory testing, or automatically denied entry and/or confiscation and disposal, and as the NLVSA may determine, in the overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country.

SECTION 43. *Wildlife and Endangered Species.* In accordance with Section 2 of Article 14 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) on effect on domestic legislation and international conventions, all kinds of wildlife that are subject to veterinary quarantine regulations shall be under NLVSA jurisdiction.

SECTION 44. *Exportation Clearance or Certificate.* No animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products shall be allowed to be exported and loaded on board ships and airplanes or any vehicle unless (1) it is accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate/International Veterinary Certificate and/or Commodity Clearance duly issued by the NLVSA and (2) it has complied with the quarantine requirements of the country of destination.

SECTION 45. *Transshipment.* All transshipments of live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, and veterinary products at domestic or international ports of call shall comply with the animal health and welfare rules and regulations prescribed by the NLVSA.

SECTION 46. *Domestic Shipping.* All inland and inter-island shipments of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products from one province or region to another shall be accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate or Shipping Permit duly issued by the Director General or his duly authorized representatives. The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) and other agencies/entities managing fishports, and other ports shall require the owner, agent or master of carrier, or vessel to secure and submit a copy of clearance from the Veterinary Inspector or his deputies assigned thereat as a prerequisite to issuance of clearance to depart from the port.

SECTION 47. *Illegal or Unauthorized Shipments.* Shipments of animals, animal products, animal by-products, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological products and animal feeds which are found to be in violation of this Act and its rules and regulations, or orders of the Director General of his veterinary quarantine officers shall be confiscated and disposed of in a manner prescribed by the Director General.

SECTION 48. *Registration of Commercial Livestock Traders and Shippers.* All commercial livestock trader and shippers or handlers who are engaged in the inter-provincial and regional shipment/transportation of livestock shall register with the RLVSO in order to maintain disease-free areas and achieve safe, clean and orderly handling of commodities through the various stages of marketing or distribution channels.

SECTION 49. *Prescribing Standard Operating Procedures for Veterinary Quarantine Services in all Seaports and Airports.* The NLVSA shall establish a standard operating procedure for the Veterinary Quarantine Services at the different quarantine facilities, such as, but not limited to, seaports and airports in the country.

SECTION 50. *Declaration of Infected Areas, Premises or Zones.* If the Director General has reasonable grounds to believe that any premises, place or area is infected with a Notifiable Disease, he may, by a written order, declare an area to be infected. In case of an outbreak of communicable animal and zoonotic diseases, the Director General has the power to declare the area, region, province, or specific farm or establishment under quarantine.

SECTION 51. *Movement in Infected Areas.* Movement of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological products, and transport vehicles reasonably suspected to be exposed or contaminated with a Notifiable Disease shall be restricted in areas, regions, provinces or a specific farm or establishment that are declared infected, unless authorized by the Director General or his duly-authorized

1 representative, in the event of a disease outbreak, zones shall be established to restrict the
2 movement of animals between zones. Notices declaring the areas under quarantine shall be
3 posted in a conspicuous place in the Municipal and/or Barangay Hall, as the case may be.

4 **SECTION 52. *Lifting of Order of Quarantine.*** The Director General shall issue an order
5 lifting the quarantine where the areas, regions, provinces, or specific farms or establishments
6 declared to be infected are eventually determined to be safe and out of danger from such
7 infection. This shall authorize the resumption of shipments within the affected places.

8 **SECTION 53. *Duty of Owner or Holder.*** A person who owns, or is in charge of, or has in
9 his or her possession or control, an animal or animal product which the person has reasonable
10 grounds to suspect is infected with a notifiable diseases must, as far as practicable, keep that
11 animal or animal product seacrate from non-infected animals or animal products.

12 **SECTION 54. *Controlled Shipments.*** It shall be unlawful for any person to possess,
13 administer or use infectious diseases agents, for scientific, laboratory or other purposes, unless
14 duly authorized by a special permit by the Director General to handle hazardous materials.

15 **SECTION 55. *Depopulation Order.*** The Director General or his duly authorized
16 representative may, by a written Depopulation Order require the stamping out of healthy
17 animals in declared infected areas, premises or zones to prevent further spread of the disease.

18 **SECTION 56. *Destruction Order.*** The Director General or his duly authorized
19 representative may, by a written Destruction Order, require the proper disposal of (1) any
20 animal, animal product, and effect, and if deemed necessary, any expendable material, such as,
21 but not limited to, litter, bedding, feed bags, chick cartoon, animal crates, cage, and feeds,
22 which are infected, or reasonably suspected to be infected with a Notifiable Disease, and (2)
23 confiscated, expired, banned, unregistered, or counterfeit veterinary biological products,
24 veterinary drugs and products.

25 **SECTION 57. *Disinfection Order.*** The Director General or his duly authorized
26 representative may, by a written Disinfection Order, likewise, require the owner or person-in-
27 charge or a person in apparent control of an area which is infected, or reasonably suspected to
28 be infected with a Notifiable Disease, to clean and disinfect said area, including vehicles or any
29 material found therein.

30 **SECTION 58. *Disease-Free Areas.*** Declaration of any area as disease-free shall be made
31 by the NLVSA Director General upon the recommendation of concerned animal health
32 authorities of said office. The declaration of an area as disease-free shall be subject to the
33 guidelines set by the NLVSA.

34 **SECTION 59. *Expenses of Quarantine and Authority to Auction.*** The owner, consignee, or
35 possessor of the animals placed under quarantine shall reimburse the NLVSA for the expenses
36 incurred during the quarantine period of such animals. In case of his failure to do so after a
37 Lifting Order of Quarantine has been issued and duly served upon him, the NLVSA shall have
38 the right to auction off his animals to recover such expenses made.

39 **SECTION 60. *Non-Liability Clause.*** All charges for storage, demurrage, cartage, labor
40 and delays incident to the inspection, cost of disinfection and disposition and other post entry
41 requirement shall be paid by the importer, exporter, shipper or consignee, as the case may be.

42 **SECTION 61. *The Veterinary Quarantine Service Officer (VQSO)*** or any other authorized
43 personnel of the Center for Veterinary Quarantine Services shall not be held liable for damages
44 to the commodity or any other damages in the course of implementation of the provisions of this
45 Act, as well as its implementing rules and regulations.

46 **SECTION 62. *Disposal of Food/Garbage from Vessels or Planes.*** No food provisions or
47 garbage shall be unloaded from vessels or airplanes if there is danger that such provision may
48 introduce any communicable animal disease into the country, especially if such provisions
49 originated from areas known to be infected with any communicable animal disease.

SECTION 63. *Role of BOC, PPA, ATO and other Ports.* The Bureau of Customs, Philippine Ports Authority, Air Transportation Office and other seaport and airport authorities shall cooperate with the veterinary quarantine service in the enforcement of this Act or any rules and regulations issued in the implementation thereto, and shall give effect to the same in so far as they are connected with matters of shipping, navigation and transportation, or shipment/transport of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, and veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological.

SECTION 64. *Establishment of Veterinary Quarantine Stations.* The NLVSA shall establish and maintain quarantine stations for the detention, treatment and observation of animals in such places as may be approved from time to time by the Secretary of Agriculture, and to place all animals arriving from foreign and domestic ports or interior places in quarantine for such time as he may deem necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of dangerous communicable animal diseases.

Chapter IX

INDEMNIFICATION AND DISEASE ERADICATION TRUST FUND

SECTION 65. *Creation of a Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund.* A Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund shall be provided for in the General Appropriations Act annually and be held by the Authority. It shall not be reduced and shall not revert to the General Fund even if the same is not used to a current fiscal year. An initial amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos (P 300,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated to start the seed fund for the Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund, subject to replenishment and increase to such amounts as circumstances may require.

SECTION 66. *Fund Utilization.* The Fund shall be applied for the payment of compensation to the owner of animals. It shall also be utilized for the payment of expenses directly connected with controlling, eradicating or preventing the spread of any animal disease that is notifiable, emerging or re-emerging, exotic and zoonotic including administrative expenses.

SECTION 67. *Coverage of Compensation.* Only those animals that were stamped out pursuant to the Depopulation Order issued by the Director General, as recommended by the NAC-ADE and as approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, to prevent further spread of the disease, should be indemnified. Dead animals due to notifiable, emerging or re-emerging, exotic and zoonotic diseases are not compensable.

SECTION 68. *Compensable Amount.* The amount of compensation payable shall not be more than sixty percent (60%) of the market value of the identified animals that are ordered depopulated on account of a disease,

SECTION 69. *Issuance of Compensation Guidelines.* Guidelines for the payment of compensation shall be prescribed by the NLVSA in consultation with stakeholders.

Chapter X

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES, TRADE FACILITATION AND HARMONIZATION

SECTION 70. *International Harmonization.* The NLVSA shall study and review national standards on animal health, animal welfare and farm feed and food safety, participate in international for a relative to formulation and adoption of international standards and harmonize our national standards with relevant international standards.

SECTION 71. *Certification Systems.* The NLVSA shall, in consultation with stakeholders, develop certification systems including third party certifications in animal health, animal welfare, farm feed and food safety products, services and production in accordance with national and international standards.

SECTION 72. *Equivalence and Other Types of Sanitary Agreements.* The NLVSA, in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders, shall develop, negotiate and implement appropriate level of protection (ALOP) in relation to human and animal life in its territory, based on the principle of equivalence and other types of sanitary and trade agreements with trading partners such as, but not limited to, the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

SECTION 73. *Transparency.* The NLVSA shall have the responsibility to notify the OIE and/or the WTO SPS Committee of the country's animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety sanitary and phytosanitary status and other relevant matters and inform stakeholders on the changes in the regulations and decisions.

SECTION 74. *Zoning.* The NLVSA shall have the authority to apply for recognition to the OIE the disease-free zones and shall implement relevant measures and practices to establish and maintain these disease-free zones as based on physical boundaries.

SECTION 75. *Compartmentalization.* The NLVSA shall establish and maintain disease-free areas within its territory in accordance with OIE recommendations.

Chapter XI

VETERINARY LABORATORIES

SECTION 76. *Certification/Accreditation.* The NLVSA shall be responsible for controlling both government and private veterinary testing laboratories. Only duly certified/accredited veterinary testing laboratory facilities are allowed to do diagnostic, feed analysis and other service. The NLVSA shall develop guidelines and standards in the certification/accreditation of various veterinary laboratory facilities and establish quality systems towards international certification.

SECTION 77. *Biosafety and Biosecurity.* Standards and guidelines for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity shall be established and practiced by veterinary and feed analysis laboratories per national and international recommendations.

SECTION 78. *Proficiency Testing.* A system of quality assurance shall be developed and implemented to ensure continuing proficiency and competency of certified/accredited diagnostic and assay laboratories.

SECTION 79. *Establishment of a Specialized Diagnostic Laboratory for Swine Diseases.* There shall be established a specialized laboratory for the diagnosis of swine diseases which have grown in complexity in recent years and adversely affected all farms in the country.

Chapter XII

REGULATIONS ON ANIMAL FEEDS AND VETERINARY PRODUCTS

SECTION 80. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* In consonance with RA 1556, as amended, the NLVSA shall provide the necessary rules and regulations on the manufacture, production, handling, storage, sale and use of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and products, veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, other feed products and their establishments which have to be followed and complied with for registration.

SECTION 81. *Registration and Licensing.* Each class, type, brand or trade mark of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs, veterinary devices, veterinary cosmetics, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, and other feed products, inclusive of the establishments shall be registered individually and shall be assigned separate registration numbers. A permanent Book of Records on the registration number, codes assigned on each

product and indicated therein the class, type, brand or trade mark, technical description and manufacturer/importer of each product registered shall be kept.

SECTION 82. *Importation of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Biological Products, Veterinary Drugs and Related Products.* Importation of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Biological Products, Veterinary Drugs and Related Products without valid SPS and permits shall not be allowed entry. All in-transit shipments at the time of the occurrence of the foreign disease or contagion shall be subjected to strict quarantine and laboratory testing, or automatically denied entry and/or confiscation and disposal, as the NLVSA may determine, in the overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country.

SECTION 83. *Temporary Revocation and Suspension of License or Permit, and/or Stoppage of Production.* Failure of any grantee of license or permit to comply with any of the requirements provided in this Act or its implementing rules and regulations shall be sufficient grounds for the immediate temporary suspension or revocation of such license or permit, and/or stoppage of production and marketing for the particular product, with authority to institute recall order for said product, subject to the institution of immediate formal proceedings against the grantee or licensee.

Chapter XIII

ANIMAL AND LIVESTOCK TRADE PROMOTION

SECTION 84. *Animal Industry Market Profiles.* The NLVSA shall maintain a database of national, regional, and local animal industry market profile to support the business development of animal industries and allied industries. It shall, likewise, integrate marketing information and develop a knowledge management system of the different commodities/industries from national to local level.

SECTION 85. *Country Animal Products Export Strategies.* The NLVSA shall formulate country animal products export strategies, conduct research and benchmark export/import protocols, prepare industry analysis and reports of potential export market of the different animal food commodities, and spearhead in the promotion of exportable products and by-products to improve the performance of local agribusiness establishments producing these tradable products and by-products.

SECTION 86. *Contracting and Subcontracting Arrangement.* The NLVSA shall facilitate and coordinate any contracting and subcontracting arrangement between local and foreign investors, as necessary to boost and improve the animal, animal products and by-products export and local trading performance of the animal industry stakeholders.

SECTION 87. *Export Incentives Program.* The NLVSA shall formulate and implement the guidelines and policies for the registration and certification of bona fide and eligible exporters and facilitate and coordinate applicants and stakeholders that would like to avail of the different export incentives programs of the NLVSA, Department of Agriculture and other government agencies that are also providing related services to stimulate international marketing of Philippine-made products.

SECTION 88. *Livestock Business and Industry Strategic Development.* The NLVSA shall formulate and regularly update short-, medium- and long-term livestock business and industry strategic development plans which will serve as guides and roadmaps for the development of the different industries in the livestock sector cut across the agribusiness supply chain.

SECTION 89. *Livestock Marketing Information System.* The NLVSA shall strengthen the livestock marketing information system through the development of database systems, printed and online publications of marketing information which could be readily accessible to the input suppliers, producers, marketers, processors, industry associations, government and other stakeholders.

SECTION 90. *Socio-economic and Marketing Research.* The NLVSA shall strengthen the utilization of social-economic and marketing research to maximize the benefit of the different

methodologies and strategies of these interdisciplinary researches for the sustained growth and development and the trade promotion of the country's animal industry products and services, considering the social and economic factors that contribute to the increase in income, employment generation, improvement of standard of living and quality of life of livestock farmers, traders, processors, consumers, and in incorporating the socio-economic impact assessment as integral part of any project, program and policy implementation by the NLVSA and DA on the different industries/commodities.

SECTION 91. *Marketing Information Governance.* The NLVSA shall support the development of marketing information governance to achieve a more transparent, effective exchange and higher coverage of marketing information dissemination in a national scale, to boost the competitive advantage, strategic and supply chain management of local livestock farmers, traders, processors and other relevant stakeholders, considering the different bilateral and multilateral trade agreements in which the country is already a part of and continually complying with national commitments to efficiently compete in the local and in the international market.

Chapter IV

UTILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT FARMS

SECTION 92. *Public-Private Sector Participation.* The NLVSA shall maximize the economic potential of its various animal stock and research farms for the benefit of the animal industry through joint government and private sector initiative and participation in the utilization and development thereof.

SECTION 93. *Use of Government Lands for Quasi-Public Purposes.* All lands of the government which have been reserved, donated, leased or acquired for animal stock farms or breeding purposes are hereby reclassified or allowed for quasi-public purposes. The Secretary of Agriculture, upon the recommendation of the NLVSA, in coordination with LGUs, shall have the authority to enter into joint venture agreements over such lands with private individuals, corporations and cooperatives with the end in view of maximizing their full potential for livestock production purposes, processing and marketing in achieving the accelerated development of the livestock industry in accordance with the currently approved zoning ordinance.

Chapter XV

PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

SECTION 94. *Failure to Report Notifiable Diseases.* All animal producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, and farm consultants who have sufficient knowledge of a notifiable disease and fails to report it to the LGU Veterinary Office or to the NLVSA or to the RLVSIO immediately within 24 hours by the quickest means possible shall be fined for the first offense, the amount of Twenty thousand pesos (P 20,000.00) and for each succeeding offense, imprisonment of ten (10) days.

SECTION 95. *Obstruction of Duty.* The farm or establishment owner, transport operator, animal facility operator or any person acting in his behalf who disobeys, evades, obstructs or hinders the NLVSA Director General, or any of his enforcement officers or deputized officers to perform his duty shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Twenty thousand pesos (P 20,000.00). A repetition of the same offense shall be punished by imprisonment of six (6) months, and cancellation of the registration, permit or license of such person, farm or establishment owner, or transport operator, whichever is applicable.

SECTION 96. *False Statements.* Any person who knowingly makes false declarations or misleading statements in his application for license, certificate of product registration or permit shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P 50,000.00) and imprisonment of six (6) months.

SECTION 97. *Non-registration of Transport Facilities and Equipments.* Failure of the owner to register vessels, vehicles, and equipments related to transport of animals, animal products and by-products, animal feeds and feedstuffs, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological products, veterinary devices, and other products shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Ten thousand pesos (P 10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of sixty (60) days.

SECTION 98. *Non-observance of Prescribed Procedures.* Any person or establishment operator which (a) during the course of regular operations fail to observe NLVSA approved procedures, or (b) during seizure, detention, or quarantine fails to seek clearance from NLVSA in the handling, disposal, or destruction and removal of live or dead animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and veterinary devices, animal feeds and feed ingredients, shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P 50,000.00) and imprisonment of thirty (30) days.

SECTION 99. *Unauthorized Operation and Use of Registration Number.* Establishment operators/owners found without a valid License to Operate from NLVSA or unlawfully using the registration number of another feed, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and products establishments shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) and imprisonment of thirty (30) days.

SECTION 100. *Failure to Display and Use of Fake or Expired Registration Certificate.* Establishment operator found not displaying the Registration Certificate or displaying fake or expired certificates in the premises of the establishment shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Ten thousand pesos (P 10,000.00) and closure of said establishments for second offense.

SECTION 101. *Illegal Manufacture and Marketing of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Drugs and Veterinary Biological Products.* Any person or establishment operator engaged in the manufacture, trade, importation, distribution, use or sale of banned, substandard, tampered, adulterated, unregistered or damaged through improper handling of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and products, veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, premixes, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, specialty feeds, specialty feed nutrient preparations and other feed products, in any form, shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) and imprisonment of thirty (30) days.

SECTION 102. *Illegal Acts on Labeling and Use of Fake Veterinary Drugs and Veterinary Biological Products.* Any person or establishment operator found guilty of tampering, altering, mutilating, destroying, obliterating or removing the whole or any part of the labeling, material packages and tags or labels of; or using fake or adulterated veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, specialty feeds, specialty feed nutrient preparations and other feed products, in any form, shall be fined One hundred fifty thousand pesos (P 150,000.00) and punished with imprisonment of sixty (60) days.

SECTION 103. *Illegal Use and Sale of Veterinary and Human Drugs.* Any person found to be using and selling unlawful or unauthorized veterinary or human drugs for animals raised for human consumption shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Twenty-five thousand pesos (P 25,000.00).

SECTION 104. *Refusal to Vaccinate Animals.* Refusal of an owner or caretaker to have his animals vaccinated during outbreaks of notifiable and priority diseases, emerging or re-emerging diseases and exotic diseases shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P 10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of ten (10) days.

SECTION 105. *Other Violations of this Act.* Any person, officers of corporation, association, organization, or establishment found to be in violation of any of the provisions of this Act that are not covered by the foregoing provisions, or rules and regulations issued therewith, shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P 50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) and/or

imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 106. *Exceptions Under Certain Conditions.* Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the Director General to certify for prosecution any first violation of this Act whenever sufficient compliance and public interest, with no damage caused to the public or any individual, will be adequately served by a suitable written notice of violation and warning duly endorsed by the appropriate Advisory Committee described under Chapter IV hereof, and recommended by the Director General to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval.

SECTION 107. *Repeated Violation.* Any person found to have committed a second violation of the same offense shall suffer the penalty of fine and/or imprisonment prescribed for said offense.

Chapter XVI

REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION PROCEEDINGS

SECTION 108. *Institution of Complaint.* The Director General, or upon the instance of any interested party, may file a complaint before the hearing committee for the formal suspension or revocation of the license or permit duly issued by the NLVSA for violation of its terms and conditions, or any provisions of the rules and regulations applicable thereto.

SECTION 109. *Hearing Committee.* A Hearing Committee is hereby created to hear any complaint filed under the preceding Section. It shall be composed of at least three (3) members. The Director General, or in his unavailability, the deputy head of the Center for Animal Products and Services Regulation shall act as Chairman with the Division Chief of the commodity concerned and any other Division Chief of NLVSA, as may be designated by the Director General, as members thereof.

SECTION 110. *Powers and Functions.* The Hearing Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

1. To conduct formal investigations and hearings on the cases before it and make recommendations for appropriate actions therein for approval of the Director General;
2. To administer oaths, issue summons and subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of such books, papers, contracts, records, statements of account, agreements and other documents as may be material to a just determination of the matter under investigation and to testify in any investigation or hearing conducted in pursuance to this Act;
3. To hold any person in contempt, directly or indirectly, and impose appropriate penalties therefor ranging from One thousand to Ten thousand pesos (P1,000.00-P10,000.00);
4. To enjoin any or all acts involving or arising from any case pending before it which, if not restrained forthwith, may cause grave or irreparable damage to any party or the government; and

The Committee shall use every and all reasonable means to ascertain the facts, issues and applicable laws, rules and jurisprudence in each case speedily and objectively and without regard to technicalities of law or procedure, all in the interest of due process.

In any proceeding before the Committee, the parties may be represented by a legal counsel. The Committee Report, when approved by the Director General, shall be final and binding on the parties after the lapse of fifteen (15) days from its date of receipt by said parties. Subject to execution pending appeal, any aggrieved party may appeal to the Secretary of Agriculture within the same period.

Chapter XVII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 111. Confidentiality of Technical Information. The NLVSA shall take such measure as may be necessary to protect trade, industrial, and policy data of industry stakeholders acquired or gathered during the course of official business when disclosure of such information will prejudice the competitiveness or operational viability of concerned persons or entities.

SECTION 112. Regulatory Fees and Retention of Income.

1. The NLVSA shall have the authority to impose charges and fees for the services rendered subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, which are payable to the NLVSA.
2. All income of the NLVSA shall be deposited in an authorized government depository bank as a special regulatory fund. Any interests earned by such fund shall form part of the retained income. Such fund shall be used primarily for, but not limited to, the acquisition and expansion of office and laboratory space, human resource development and expansion, purchase of laboratory equipment and motor vehicles, the upgrading of its current facilities and equipment, and maintenance, other operating expenses of the central and regional laboratories, and other activities, services of the agency in the performance of its mandate and support enforcement and monitoring activities.
3. The special regulatory fund shall be allowed to accept grants, donations, and other endowments from local and external sources in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.
4. Any contribution, donation, bequest, subsidy, or financial aid which may be made to the NLVSA for the implementation of this Act shall constitute as an allowable deduction from the taxable income of the donor/giver and shall be exempted from donor's tax.
5. The retention, use and application of this fund shall not be delayed, amended, altered, or modified, or affected in any way by an order or directive from any executive office, but will be subject only to the general accounting rules and guidelines by the Commission on Audit (COA). The primary purpose of the fund as herein stated shall prevail over any other purpose that may be pursued by NLVSA on its own initiative or through an order or directive by any higher office. The NLVSA shall submit annually to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Budget and Management a report on how funds were utilized, including its accomplishments.
6. There shall also be established a legal fund out of the interest earned from the retained income for use in case of legal actions against the officials and employees of the NLVSA in the course of the exercise of their official functions and duties.

SECTION 113. Appointment of Veterinary Attaches. The Department of Agriculture shall strengthen the international animal health, disease surveillance, and information gathering capability by the appointment of veterinary attaches in countries that are major livestock trading partners. In other countries, the NLVSA, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, and in coordination with other government entities concerned, may require Filipino representatives abroad and foreign-based personnel to assist in the collection of data on animal health, disease surveillance, and other related information.

SECTION 114. Foreign and Local Grants and Aids. The NLVSA, in itself, or in collaboration with other agencies, shall receive grants and other funds for its research activities and various programs.

SECTION 115. Veterinary Education. The NLVSA, in coordination with CHED and PVMA, shall regularly provide recommendations to make veterinary medical curriculum responsive to the needs and imperatives of the animal industry.

SECTION 116. *Mandatory Review.* The Congress of the Philippines shall undertake a mandatory review of this Act at least once every five (5) years and as often as it may deem necessary to ensure that veterinary policies and guidelines remain responsive to changing circumstances.

Chapter XVIII

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SECTION 117. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The NLVSA shall formulate and recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture the necessary rules and regulations for the full implementation of this Act; *Provided, However,* that the formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted to both Houses of Congress for information and guidance. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon publication in the *Official Gazette* and in a newspaper of general circulation and submission of three (3) certified copies thereof to the National Administrative Register of the UP Law Center.

SECTION 118. *Creation and Reclassification of Positions.* The NLVSA is hereby authorized to create, upgrade, collapse or reclassify existing positions to veterinary and related positions necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Chapter XIX

FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 119. *Appropriations.* The appropriations for the NLVSA included in the budget of the Department of Agriculture under the current General Appropriations Act shall be used to effectively carry out the implementation of this Act. The appropriation may be augmented by the income which the agency is authorized to use under this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The amount of One hundred million pesos (P 100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the establishment of a specialized diagnostic laboratory for swine diseases as provided under Section 79 of this Act.

SECTION 120. *Repealing Clause.* Any provision of law or regulation inconsistent with this Act shall be considered modified or repealed accordingly. However, the provisions of Act No. 3639, Republic Act No. 8435, as amended, otherwise known as the "Agricultural Fisheries Modernization Act", Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the "Administrative Code of 1987", Republic Act No. 1556, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 7, otherwise known as the "Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act", Act No. 3101, Republic Act No. 1071, Republic Act No. 1578, otherwise known as the "Livestock Promotion Fund", Batas Pambansa Blg. 97, Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998", Republic Act No. 9842, otherwise known as the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2007", and such other laws which are not consistent with this Act shall remain valid and in full force and effect.

SECTION 121. *Separability Clause.* If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 122. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,