

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4931

Introduced by Rep. **BERNADETTE "BH" HERRERA-DY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For a lot of Filipinos, dogs are food, not friends, This is an unfortunate reality that continuous to hound animal lovers despite the passage of the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (RA 8485) and the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007 (RA 9482). According to the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the animals suffer at every stage, from fanning or capture to transport, sale and slaughter. Moreover, it has serious consequences for human consumers since low profit margins on dog farms often mean that dogs are fed poor quality of food, even the carcasses of other dogs, creating a disease-prone food chain that affects society at large.

Commercial dog meat production is a cruel and inhumane practice that must be completely eradicated. The law seems to have a little deterrent effect. as the illegal dog meat trade remains to be a million dollar industry with nearly 300,000,00 canines butchered every year]. Now on its 18th year, there seems to be no serious implementation of the law and that arrest and apprehensions are preferred by lawbreakers due to the minimal fine, which would cost less than litigations.

Hence, there is a need to enact stiffer penalties for persons who engage in any of the stages of the dog meat trade, and to allocate the funds collected therefor on the implementation of this act.

On the basis of the foregoing considerations, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


BERNADETTE HERRERA-DY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4931

Introduced by Rep. **BERNADETTE "BH" HERRERA-DY**

AN ACT PUNISHING DOG MEAT TRADE

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

SECTION 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known as the "**Anti-Dog Meat Trade Act of 2019.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State and the purpose of this Act to protect and promote the welfare of all animals in the Philippines, including dogs, and to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Towards these ends, the ban on dog meat trade shall be reinforced through the enactment of stiffer penalties for violators.

SEC. 3. Prohibitions - It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in dog meat trade, including the farming or capture, transport, sale, or slaughter of dogs for the purpose of trading dog meat.

SEC. 4. Penalties for noncompliance - Any person who engages in dog meat trade, including the farming or capture, transport, sale, purchase, or slaughter of dogs for the purposes of trading dog meat shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment and/or fine, as indicated in the following graduated scale:

- 1) Imprisonment of not less than SIX (6) MONTHS nor more than TWO (2) YEARS, and/or a fine of no more than TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) per dog, if the person is found guilty of farming or capture, transport, and/or sale of live dogs for purposes of trading dog meat.
- 2) Imprisonment of not less than ONE (1) YEAR or more than THREE (3) YEARS, and/or a fine of no more than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100, 000.00), if the person is found guilty of transporting, trading, selling, and/or purchasing dog meat.
- 3) Imprisonment of not less than TWO (2) YEARS nor more than FIVE (5) YEARS, and/or a fine of no more than TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25, 000.00) per dog, if the person is found guilty of slaughter of dogs for the purposes of trading dog meat.

If a person is guilty of engaging in more than one set of offenses, the differing penalties shall not be compounded and the higher penalty shall apply.

In addition to the punishment of imprisonment and/or fine, the offender is required to attend a forum on animal welfare protection to be conducted by the Committee on Animal Welfare under the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with accredited animal welfare non-government organizations.

All penalties collected pursuant to this Act shall be deposited in the National Treasury in an account specifically designated for the enforcement and implementation of this Act and available only for that purpose.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Information Agency, animal welfare and consumer welfare non-government organizations, academe, and stakeholders, shall prepare and promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, administrative orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity* - This Act. shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,