



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 37TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG
PANLALAWIGAN OF NUEVA ECIJA HELD VIA ZOOM, VIRTUAL ONLINE SESSION ON

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

PRESENT:

VG EMMANUEL ANTONIO M. UMALI	- Presiding Officer
BM JOSE LUCIUS POCHOLO M. DIZON	- Member
BM ERIC DANIEL F. SALAZAR	- Member
BM JASON J. ABALOS	- Member
BM FERDINAND V. DYSICO	- Member
BM EDUARDO JOSE B. JOSON, VII	- Member
BM JO-MARIO ANGELO E. MATIAS	- Member
BM MARY SWEET LIBERTY N. CRUZ	- Member
BM NAPOLEON P. INTERIOR, JR.	- Member
BM BELINDA E. PALILIO	- Member (President-PCL)
BM ARIEL L. MATIAS	- Member (President-LnB)
BM PAUL JOHN ARKHE C. SERRANO	- Member (President-SK Federation)

ABSENT:

BM RAFAEL ANDREW R. VILLANUEVA	- Member
BM TERESITA A. PATIAG	- Member
BM EMMANUEL B. DOMINGO	- Member (IPM Representative)

ORDINANCE NO. 43-S-2023

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ANIMAL BITE
TREATMENT CENTER OF THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA**

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2023, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan received a communication from Governor Aurelio M. Umali requesting for the enactment of an ordinance relative to the establishment of an Animal Bite Treatment Center in the Province of Nueva Ecija, as mandated by Republic Act No. 9482 or the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution specifically provides that “the State shall protect the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them”;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that local government units shall ensure and support the promotion of health and safety of its people;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9482, or the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”, mandates the formulation of a National Rabies Prevention and Control Program;

WHEREAS, Section 6-B of Joint DA, DOH, DepEd, and DILG Administrative Order No. 01, Series of 2008, which provides for the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9482, mandates local government units to establish their respective Animal Bite Treatment Centers to help in the prevention and eventual eradication of rabies in the country;

WHEREAS, Governor Aurelio M. Umali determined that the Province of Nueva Ecija, with its growing population and increased number of rabies cases, needs to establish an Animal Bite Treatment Center that will cater all Novo Ecijanos and other nearby provinces, to help bite victims receive timely rabies post-exposure treatment at little cost;

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2020, through contracts with private clinics, an Animal Bite Treatment Center (ABTC) was established and operated in the compound of the Eduardo L. Joson Memorial Hospital at Bitas, Cabanatuan City;

WHEREAS, the contract with the private clinic has ended and the Provincial Government is fully ready to manage and operate the Animal Bite Treatment Center through the Provincial Health Office under the Rabies Program, led by the Provincial Rabies Coordinator;

NOW THEREFORE, under the suspended internal rules and on motion of Board Member Belinda E. Palilio, unanimously seconded by all Members present;

BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN IN SESSION DULY ASSEMBLED:

ORDINANCE NO. 43-S-2023

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTER OF THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIIJA

TITLE OF ORDINANCE

SECTION 1. This ordinance shall be known as the “Animal Bite Treatment Center of the Province of Nueva Ecija”.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 2. As used herein, the following terms and phrases shall have the following meaning:

- A. Bitten – refers to an act by which a dog seizes, cuts, or grips with its teeth so that the skin of a person has been wounded, pierced, or scratched.
- B. Dog – refers to a common quadruped domestic animal belonging to the order carnivore (male or female), scientifically known as *canis familiaris*.
 - 1. Purebred – the dog belongs to a group of unmixed lineage or without admixture of breed.

2. Upgraded – improved mixture of different breed of dog commonly known as *mongrel*.
 3. “*Askal*” – a colloquial name for local native or low-grade dog, literally means street dog or “*asong kalye*”.
 4. Stray dog – refers to any dog leaving its owner’s place or premise and no longer under the effective control of the owner; a dog without an owner,
- C. Owner – refers to any person keeping, harboring, or taking charge, care, or control of a dog.
- D. Rabies – refers to a highly fatal disease caused by a *lyssavirus* transmitted mainly through the bite of an infected animal and is characterized by muscle paralysis, hydrophobia and aerophobia, and other neurological manifestations.
- E. Rabies transmission – refers to the transmission or passage of the rabies virus through a bite by an infected animal, or through contamination with virus-laden saliva on breaks in the skin and of mucous membranes such as the eyes, the lips, the mouth, or the genital organs.
- F. Rabies Vaccination / Immunoprophylaxis of Humans – refers to the inoculation of humans, with modern day rabies vaccines or rabies immunoglobulin, by a trained doctor or nurse under the supervision of a qualified medical practitioner.
- G. Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (Prep. E.P.) – refers to the rabies vaccination administered after an exposure to rabies to those who are at high risk of getting rabies.
- H. Post-exposure Treatment (PEP) – refers to an anti-rabies treatment administered after an exposure to rabies, which includes local wound care, rabies vaccine, with or without anti-rabies immunizing agent.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTER

SECTION 3. The Animal Bite Treatment Center (ABTC) of the Province of Nueva Ecija is hereby formally established, to help bite victims receive timely rabies post-exposure treatment at little cost. The Animal Bite Treatment Center will be managed by the Provincial Health Office under the Rabies Program, led by the Provincial Rabies Coordinator.

DUTIES, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 4. A. The duties and functions of the Provincial Health Office are as follows:

- a) Act as a frontline in undertaking activities that may reduce human rabies cases in the province.
- b) Be responsible in handling dog bite victims and establish Animal Bite Treatment Center (ABTC).
- c) Conduct seminars on “Rabies and Proper Handling of Dog Bite Victims” together with the Provincial Veterinary Office.



- d) Comply with and implement the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9482 especially provisions on Section 6B (1) to (7).
- e) Implement the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program.
- f) Ensure the availability and adequate supply of DOH pre-qualified human anti-rabies vaccine in Animal Bite Treatment Centers at all times, and shall coordinate with other implementing agencies and concerned NGOs for this purpose.
- g) Provide Post-Exposure Treatment at the minimum expense to individuals bitten by animals suspected of being rabid which will consist of the initial vaccine and immunoglobulin dose.
- h) Provide Pre-Exposure Treatment to high-risk personnel, such as but not limited to laboratory staff, veterinarians, animal handlers, vaccinators, and other persons working with rabies virus for free.
- i) Coordinate with the Department of Agriculture in the development of appropriate health education strategy to inform the public on rabies prevention and control, and responsible pet ownership.
- j) Develop and maintain a Human Rabies Surveillance System.
- k) Encourage collaborative activities with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Non-Government Organizations, Peoples' Organizations, and other concerned sectors.

SECTION 4. B. The duties and functions of the Provincial Rabies Coordinator are as follows:

- a) Responsible in gathering rabies updates including dog biting incidents in the community/communities and submit report to the Regional Rabies Prevention Control Committee (RRPCC).
- b) Coordinate with the barangay residents, Barangay Rabies Prevention Control Committee (BRPCC) and Local Rabies Prevention Control Committee (LRPCC) to facilitate and enhance the implementation of the program.
- c) Accompany the Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (PESU) and the Provincial Veterinary Office during the conduct of any rabies related investigations/activities.
- d) Monitor, supervise, coordinate with the 11 Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTC) in Nueva Ecija.
- e) Formulation of Rabies Annual Operation and Investment Plan.
- f) Prepare and make allocation list of anti-rabies vaccine/serum to different ABTCs in the province.
- g) Manage and supervise Provincial Health Office Animal Bite Treatment Center.
- h) Monitor, supervise, and evaluate different DOH-certified Animal Bite Treatment Centers.
- i) Facilitate Rabies Management Exposure Training.
- j) Provide updates on Rabies and Animal Bite Management during monthly meetings through public health nurses and rural health midwives (PHN and RHM).
- k) Consolidate and analyze quarterly reports and inventory reports and submit to the Regional Rabies Coordinator of DOH Central Luzon Center for Health Development.
- l) Interview and assess animal bite victim/s.

m) Perform vaccination of anti-rabies vaccine/serum to animal bite victim/s.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

SECTION 5. Public lectures on “Responsible Pet Ownership” and rabies awareness will be conducted during public forum and extension services.

SECTION 6. Rabies advertisements shall be aired on local radio stations on a regular basis.

SECTION 7. The National Annual Rabies Consciousness Month shall be observed every month of March, and the World Rabies Day every September 28 in which a province-wide pet and dog show shall be conducted during the celebration, particularly fiestas, to encourage people’s awareness on rabies and promote “Responsible Pet Ownership”.

SECTION 8. NRPCC-approved educational and reading materials on rabies shall be distributed to different district hospitals, schools, public libraries, barangay halls.

PRE-EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT

SECTION 9. A free pre-exposure anti-rabies vaccine shall be provided and maintained by the Provincial Health Office (PHO) on all individuals engaged in rabies-related activities particularly the Provincial Health Rabies Coordinator and all personnel of the Veterinary Services engaged in rabies prevention and control.

POST-EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT

SECTION 10. In case the animal that has bitten or scratched a human is not available for testing, the victim shall be regarded as having been exposed to a rabid animal, and is in urgent need of preventive vaccination measures.

SECTION 11. A vaccinated dog that bit a human shall still be observed for a period of fourteen (14) days while the victim shall undergo preventive vaccination. The preventive vaccinations may be stopped if the suspect dog lives after the observation period, at the discretion of the attending physician.

SECTION 12. A dog that has bitten a human shall not be vaccinated, killed, or euthanized within the 14-day observation period. In cases when it is deemed necessary to vaccinate or kill the animal, the attending veterinarian must get permission from the committee.

SECTION 13. When a confirmed rabid animal bites an unvaccinated dog, it shall be euthanized immediately and disposed of properly. No tissues or secretions from a clinically rabid animal should be used for human or animal consumption.

REPORTING OF RABIES CASES AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

SECTION 14. It is the duty of the dog owner and the victim to report all dog biting incidence to the Provincial Veterinary Office and Provincial Health Office or to any licensed veterinarian or physician for proper guidance within 24 hours after the

incident. The physician will treat the bite victim, while the veterinarian will handle the biting animal. Should the dog die during the observation period of 14 days, the dog owner shall immediately submit the dog for rabies examination.

SECTION 15. The Provincial Veterinary Office and Provincial Health Office shall conduct a thorough investigation on all incidents of dog and human rabies cases and submit reports to NRPCC and will furnish copies to the DA and DOH, respectively.

SECTION 16. To assess the extent of rabies incidence in the locality, veterinarians, owners, and operators of medical health facilities, etc. shall likewise be required to submit reports to the Provincial Veterinary Office and the Provincial Health Office.

DOH LICENSE

SECTION 17. The Provincial Health Office applied for its License to Operate upon its establishment on November 2020. The Department of Health issued its first License to Operate (LTO) on February 15, 2021 and is being renewed yearly, and will be renewed yearly.

SECTION 18. The DOH provided a Revised Guideline on the Management in Animal Bite Patients (Administrative Order No. 2018-0013). This Administrative Order is to update the guidelines on PEP and PrEP and to provide guidance on the selection and use of human rabies vaccine to help address the global shortage of WHO pre-qualified human rabies vaccines.

PHILHEALTH ACCREDITATION

SECTION 19. Upon the issuance of the Animal Bite Treatment Center (ABTC) License to Operate (LTO), the Provincial Health Office applied for PhilHealth accreditation and was granted on June 29, 2021. The PhilHealth accreditation was renewed yearly and will be renewed yearly.

SECTION 20. To complement the DOH guidelines, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) released the guidelines for the benefit package for all qualified beneficiaries and accredited Animal Bite Treatment Centers. The PHO Animal Bite Treatment Centers is a PhilHealth-accredited facility qualified for such support.

SECTION 21. Under PhilHealth Circular No. 015, s. 2012, within the Rules of Reimbursement No. 5, "The ABP reimbursement shall be paid directly to a PhilHealth-accredited ABTC or ABC. The disposition of payment shall be as follows:

- a) PHP 2,700.00 as fund for the purchase of drugs (e.g. vaccine, immunoglobulin, and antibiotics), and supplies required for the delivery of package.
- b) PHP 300.00 as health staff service fee".

SECTION 22. Based on the above-mentioned PhilHealth circular, the PHO ABTC staff and personnel will receive an EQUAL SHARING of the health staff service fee with computation as illustrated below:



A. EQUAL SHARE =

TOTAL HEALTH STAFF SERVICE

(No. of Personnel / Direct Providers)+(No.of Staff x 50%)

B. For the Support Personnel:

$$x = (\text{Equal Share}) * (50\%)$$

SECTION 23. REPEALING CLAUSE. All ordinances, resolutions, local executive issuances, and/or administrative rules and regulations inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 24. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after it has been published in a local newspaper of general circulation.

ENACTED, September 18, 2023.

I HEREBY certify to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance No. 43-S-2023.

ATTY. NORBERTO D. CORONEL

Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

ATTESTED:

EMMANUEL ANTONIO M. UMALI
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

AURELIO M. UMALI

Governor

Date:

SEP 26 2023