



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA
Provincial Capitol Bldg.
Brgy. Singalat, City of Palayan
Tel. No.: (044) 940-7793

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 46th REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG
PANLALAWIGAN OF NUEVA ECIJA HELD VIA ZOOM, VIRTUAL ONLINE SESSION ON

DECEMBER 9, 2022

PRESENT:

VG EMMANUEL ANTONIO M. UMALI	- Presiding Officer
BM ERIC DANIEL F. SALAZAR	- Member
BM RAFAEL ANDREW R. VILLANUEVA	- 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)
BM EMMANUEL B. DOMINGO	- Member (IPM Representative)

ABSENT:

BM TERESITA A. PATIAG	- Member
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ORDINANCE NO. 67-S-2022

**AN ORDINANCE ENACTING THE PET ANIMAL CODE OF
THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

Author: BOARD MEMBER EDUARDO JOSE B. JOSON, VII
Co-Author: BOARD MEMBER NAPOLEON P. INTERIOR, JR.

WHEREAS, Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8485 or the "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998" provides that: It shall be unlawful for any person to torture any animal, to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any animal or to subject any dog or horse to dogfights or horsefights, kill or cause or procure to be tortured or deprived of adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or experiments not expressly authorized by the Committee on Animal Welfare;

WHEREAS, despite the existence of R.A. 8485, scrawny cats sleeping on rubbish piles and mange-ridden dogs limping along the streets are common sights in the country. According to the Philippines Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), twelve million stray cats and dogs roamed the nation in 2019. Each year, thousands of these animals are euthanised in pounds or die of disease, hunger or wounds resulting from fighting;

WHEREAS, data shows that half a million dogs are also butchered annually in the Philippines and its meat are served as delicacies in some restaurants and carinderias in the country. The Philippines National Meat Inspection Commission publicly stated that dog meats are not inspected by the Commission, and further called the consumption of dog meat as “dangerous”. Consuming such meat puts individuals at risk of infection from deadly parasites as E. Coli and salmonella (commonly found in contaminated meats), as well as at risk of contracting other serious and potentially deadly bacterial diseases such as anthrax, brucellosis, hepatitis, and leptospirosis; Dog meat is additionally linked to the spread of rabies, a disease that kills approximately 10,000 dogs and 300 people per year in the Philippines. Evidence shows that rabies is present and potentially transmitted throughout all stages of the dog meat industry - sourcing, trading, slaughtering, and consumption;

WHEREAS, other data shows alarming increase in fatal road accidents due to astray animals and deaths that resulted from rabies infections from dog and cat bites;

WHEREAS, the main root of these problems were attributed to irresponsible pet ownership and pet abandonment;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in pursuance of its mandate provided under Section 468 of R.A. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 which states that: (a) The Sangguniang Panlalawigan, as the legislative body of the province, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the province and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of the Code, aims to provide adequate protection for humans and pets in the territorial jurisdiction of the Province of Nueva Ecija;

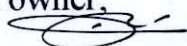
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, AS IT IS HEREBY ENACTED, BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN, IN SESSION DULY ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Title. This ordinance shall be known as the “**The Pet Animal Code of the Province of Nueva Ecija**”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the Provincial Government to protect its inhabitants, both humans and pets alike.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. As used herein, the following terms and phrases shall have the following meaning:

- a. “*Astray Animals*” refer to domestic animals found wandering at large or without an owner;



- b. ***“Pet Animals”*** refer to tamed or domesticated animals, kept as a companion or treated with fondness, usually a dog or cat;
- c. ***“Native Dogs/Cats”*** refer to dogs and cats of local breed, commonly referred as aspin (asong pinoy) and pusang pinoy;
- d. ***“Mixed Native/Imported Dogs/Cats”*** refer to dogs and cats of mixed breed, the parents being local and imported;
- e. ***“Pure Breed Imported Dogs/Cats”*** refer to dogs and cats of pure imported breed;
- f. ***“Rabies”*** refers to a contagious and fatal viral disease of dogs and other mammals, usually cats, that causes madness and convulsions, transmissible through the saliva to humans;
- g. ***“Spaying”*** refers to the removal of the ovaries and uterus of a female animal;
- h. ***“Neutering”*** refers to the removal of an animal’s sexual organ, also called castrating;
- i. ***“Animal Pound”*** refers to an animal shelter where stray, lost, abandoned or surrendered animals, mostly dogs and cats, are housed;

ARTICLE I

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

Section 1. Astray Pet Animals. No person shall allow or neglect his/her pet animal to wander or roam the streets or any public place within the Province of Nueva Ecija. Owners are mandated to ensure that their pet animals are at all times in their yards, garages and/or house premises. People with small property space are mandated to keep their dogs on leashes. Likewise, owners are strictly advised to put leashes on their pets when bringing them outside their homes.

All astray pet animals shall be captured by the Barangay Officials and brought to the City/Municipal Animal Pound.

Any person, duly accredited organization or agency capable of capturing the astray pet animal is also allowed to do so and is mandated to turn over the said animal to proper authorities.

Section 2. Urination and Defecation of Pets in Public Places. The urination and defecation of pets on streets and sidewalks are strictly prohibited. In case the pet defecates, the pet owner is mandated to clean up the feces. In case the pet needs to urinate, the owner is mandated to bring his/her pet in a place where the pet’s urine will not cause inconvenience to other people’s property (i.e. car tires, gates, fences, etc.). This provision shall not apply to a guide dog accompanying a blind person.

Section 3. Mandatory Pet Registration. All pet animals in the cities and municipalities of the Province of Nueva Ecija shall be registered with the Office of the Barangay Chairman concerned, within one (1) week after birth or within five (5) days from date of arrival to the barangay, if the same was brought from elsewhere.

Type of Pet	Fee
Native Dogs/Cats	20.00
Mixed Native/Imported Dogs/Cats	50.00
Pure Breed Imported Dogs/Cats	100.00

The Registration Fee shall be paid to the Office of the Barangay Treasurer. Forty Percent (40%) of the fee collected shall go to the barangay concerned, and the remaining Sixty Percent (60%) will be remitted to the City/Municipal Treasurer concerned, the same shall constitute as a special fund for the implementation of this Ordinance.

The Barangay, through its Secretary, shall issue a pet registration card or certificate of registration indicating the type of pet, its name and breed, as well at the owner's name and address.

The Barangay shall also provide pet tags which shall be hanged in pet collars provided by the owners. The collars/tags shall be worn by the pets especially in public places.

The Barangay shall keep a record of the registered pets in its locality. The Barangay Chairman shall assign personnel that will conduct a monthly house to house inspection to ensure that all pets in the barangay are registered.

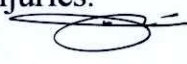
All unregistered pet animals shall be picked up by the concerned authorities and shall be brought to the animal pound.

Section 4. Mandatory Pet Vaccination. All owners are required to have their pet animals regularly vaccinated against rabies and maintain a health card which shall contain all vaccinations conducted on their pets, for accurate record purposes.

There shall be a scheduled free mass anti-rabies vaccination in every barangay, once a month, through the coordination of the Barangay with the City/Municipal Veterinary Office concerned.

Section 5. Rabies Prevention. Owners whose pets have bitten someone shall report immediately or within twenty-four (24) hours, the incident, to the concerned officials for investigation or for any appropriate action. The animal shall also be placed under observation by a government or private veterinarian for at least fourteen (14) days.

The pet owner is mandated to assist the bite victim immediately and shoulder the medical expenses incurred and other incidental expenses relative to the victim's injuries.



Section 6. Pet Population Control. Owners are strictly advised to limit the pets that they are sheltering or taking care of. The City/Municipal Veterinary Offices in the Province of Nueva Ecija, in coordination with the concerned barangays are mandated to conduct free spaying and neutering of pet animals.

Barangay Officials are mandated to assign personnel to capture astray cats and dogs and bring the same to the City/Municipal Veterinarian for spaying/neutering. The neutered cats and dogs can later on be released, thereby implementing the TNR or Trap-Neuter-Return method.

ARTICLE II

PET ANIMAL WELFARE AND PROTECTION

Section 1. Prohibiting the Abandonment of Pet Animals. Abandoning pet animals are strictly prohibited. Animals left in circumstances likely to cause the animal any unnecessary suffering, or if this abandonment results in the death of the animal, the pet owners shall be responsible and shall be penalized.

Section 2. Prohibiting the Torture and Killing of Pet Animals. It is strictly prohibited to torture any domesticated pet animal, to neglect the provision of adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any pet or to subject any pet animal to animal fights, kill or cause or procure to be tortured or killed, or use the same in research or experiments not expressly authorized by the Committee on Animal Welfare (Section 5 R.A. 8454 as amended by R.A. 10631 or the Animal Welfare Act of 1998).

The killing of any domesticated pet animal is declared unlawful except in the following instances:

- a) When it is done as part of the religious rituals of an established religion or sect or a ritual required by tribal or ethnic custom of indigenous cultural communities; however, leaders shall keep records in cooperation with the Committee on Animal Welfare;
- b) When the pet animal is afflicted with an incurable communicable disease as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;
- c) When the killing is deemed necessary to put an end to the misery suffered by the animal as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;
- d) When it is done to prevent an imminent danger to the life or limb of a human being;
- e) When done for the purpose of animal population control;
- f) When the animal is killed after it has been used in authorized research or experiments; and
- g) Any other ground analogous to the foregoing as determined and certified licensed veterinarian.

Section 3. Prohibiting the Slaughtering and Selling of Dog Meat. – Slaughtering of dogs and selling its meat in carinderias, restaurants and other similar establishments within the Province of Nueva Ecija is strictly prohibited. The transporting of dogs for slaughtering, and/or dog meats to and from the province is also strictly prohibited.

ARTICLE III

ANIMAL POUND

Section 1. City/Municipal Animal Pound. All City and Municipal Governments in the Province of Nueva Ecija are mandated to maintain or establish their respective animal pounds where captured astray animals in public places within their jurisdictions shall be kept for the time being.

It shall be unlawful for any personnel charged with the custody of captured astray animals to maltreat, torture, poison or inflict any suffering or harm to such animals.

The City/Municipal Veterinarian shall prescribe for the regular/daily dietary consumption and supplements of all animals detained at the pound, taking into consideration the capacity of the City/Municipal Government to provide of such necessities and requirements. Should an animal die during detention, the same shall be buried in manner and place that it should not endanger the health and safety of the public;

Section 2. Impounded Pet Animals. Immediately after an astray pet animal has been committed to the City/Municipal Pound, the Office of the City/Municipal Veterinarian, with the assistance of the barangay concerned, shall cause the finding of the whereabouts of its owner. He/she shall then cause such owner to be formally notified of the capture and detention of his/her pet animal and thereby direct such person to forthwith claim the same. Said owner and/or tamer shall be made to pay the prescribed fees required for the release of his/her detained pet .

Section 3. Impounding Fees. The impounding fee of each dog shall be at the rate of **Two Hundred Pesos (P 200.00)** for the first day and an additional **Fifty Pesos (P 50.00)** for each succeeding days.

Section 4. Release of Impounded Pet Animals. All pet animals at the City/Municipal Pound shall be released to their respective claimants only upon showing of proof that they are the owners and upon payment of the corresponding impounding fee.

Section 5. Disposal of Unclaimed Pet Animals.

- a) All pet animals found to be astray shall be seized and impounded at the City/Municipal Pound until such time that said animal is properly claimed by its owner or until such time that such animal is sold to any interested parties after seven (7) days following notice to the owner of its capture or after seven (7) days from notice as provided under Section 5(e) hereof.

- b) All unclaimed astray animals at the pound are entitled to proper custody, care shelter and sustenance.
- c) No pet animal shall stay detained at the City/Municipal Pound for more than fifteen (15) days after notice to the owner or notice to the public as provided under Section 4 (e) hereof. If astray dogs or cats are not sold to any interested party within the said period, the same shall be offered to any duly-accredited Non-Government Organization (NGO)/Peoples Organization (PO) of animal lovers for care and proper disposition.
- d) The Municipal/City Government concerned, shall have the right to auction any unclaimed pet animals detained at the pound, the proceeds of which shall accrue to the latter's fund. After seven (7) days following notice to the owner thereof or notice as posted in accordance with Section 4(e), the pet animals detained at the City/Municipal Pound shall become eligible for auction to any interested parties if the same remains to be unclaimed by the owner or that no person purports to be its owner;
- e) The Office of the City/Municipal Veterinarian which is charged with the administration of the pound, shall make public, the list of all unclaimed animals and their corresponding general description which shall include their kind, breed, color, markings if any, and other characteristics for the information and interest of all concerned. The list shall be posted at the office of the Municipal/City Veterinarian, lobby of the city/municipal hall and at the barangay halls of all the barangays in the province. Upon the capture of the astray animal, it shall likewise immediately post a written notice on the aforestated places, which notice shall contain the kind, breed, color, markings, if any, and other characteristics and requiring the owner thereof to claim the animals within seven (7) days from date of notice. Listing and posting of impounded pet animals shall also be made in social media accounts of the local government unit concerned;
- f) If after fifteen (15) days, the impounded pet animal was not claimed, sold or adopted, the same shall be endorsed to animal organizations or animal homes;

Section 6. Disbursement of Impounding Fees. (a) Fees collected and accumulated as consequence of the enforcement of this Ordinance shall be held in trust by the City/Municipal Government to be allocated only for the purpose of financing the maintenance and operation of the City/Municipal Pound, or other activities relative thereto. Allocation and disbursement of said funds shall be in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Chapter 2, Title V of R.A. 7160 or the "Local Government Code of 1991", and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

ARTICLE IV

PET SHOPS, KENNEL HOMES AND VETERINARY CLINICS

Section 1. No person, association, partnership, corporation, cooperative or any government agency or instrumentality shall establish, maintain and operate any pet shop, kennel, veterinary clinic and veterinary hospital for the breeding, treatment,

sale or trading, or training of animals without first securing from the Bureau of Animal Industry a certificate of registration therefor.

Section 2. The City and Municipal Business Licensing and Permit Offices or any similar office/department shall ensure the compliance of this provision. Pet shops and Veterinary Clinics without the corresponding Bureau of Animal Industry Certificate of Registration shall not be issued a business license/permit.

ARTICLE V

NUEVA ECIJA ANIMAL COUNCIL

Section 1. Creation of Council. There is hereby created a Council to be known as the Nueva Ecija Animal Council. It shall be headed by the Provincial Governor as the Chairman and the Vice Governor as the Vice-Chairman. The members of the council shall be appointed by the Governor thru an executive order. The Council shall oversee and supervise the implementation this ordinance, and is authorized and empowered to call upon any official or employee in the Provincial Government and in the cities and municipalities under its jurisdiction, for necessary assistance, and invite representatives of private associations concerned with the welfare, care and health of pet animals.

Section 2. Donations. In order to carry out effectively the aims and objectives of this ordinance, the Nueva Ecija Animal Council may accept donations in cash or in kind, from any foreign international organization or body as well as from Filipino citizens residing abroad or in the Philippines, and from government and private entities within the Philippines, subject to all usual accounting and auditing procedures.

All donations received by the Council shall strictly be used for the welfare and protection of pet animals.

ARTICLE VI

PENALTIES

Section 1. Fines. Violations of this ordinance shall be penalized with the following, without prejudice to the fines imposed under existing national laws relevant hereto:

- 1) Owners who refuse to put leash on their pet animals when they are brought outside the house shall be meted a fine of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) for each incident.
- 2) Owners whose pet animal urinated and defecated on the street and failed to clean up shall be meted a fine of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) for each incident.
- 3) Owners who fail or refuse to have their pet animals registered and vaccinated against rabies shall be punished by a fine of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

- 4) Owners who refuse to have their pets put under observation after said pet has bitten an individual shall be meted a fine of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00).
- 5) Owners who refuse to shoulder the medical expenses of the person bitten by their pets shall be meted a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).
- 6) Owners found abandoning their pet animals shall be meted with a fine of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for each incident.
- 7) Any person found maltreating or torturing pet animals shall be meted with a fine of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for each incident.
- 8) Any person found killing pet animals shall be meted with a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for each incident.
- 9) Any person found guilty of using electrocution as a method of euthanasia shall be fined Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per act and subject to imprisonment for one to four years. If the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately deported after service of sentence without any further proceedings, in accordance with R.A. 9482.
- 10) Any person found guilty of trading dogs and/or selling its meat shall be fined Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per dog, and subjected to imprisonment for one to four years, in accordance with R.A. 9482.
- 11) Any local official who refuse to implement the provisions of this ordinance shall be meted with the corresponding administrative charges or fines.

Section 2. Collection of Fines. The fines imposed for violation of this Ordinance shall be paid to the City/Municipal Treasurer concerned in the Province of Nueva Ecija. Sixty percent (60%) of the proceeds shall accrue to the special fund of the city/municipal government concerned, while the remaining forty percent 40% shall be turned over to the Provincial Treasurer, which shall also accrue as a special fund of the Provincial Government. All collections shall be expended in the implementation of this ordinance.

ARTICLE VII

OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 1. Reporting of Violators. Any person may report violators of this ordinance and report the same to proper authorities. The person reporting the violator is advised to take pictures as evidence of the violation.

Section 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. For the effective implementation of this ordinance, the Nueva Ecija Animal Council shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations which shall be submitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for review and approval.



Section 3. Appropriation. The sum of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) is hereby appropriated as an initial outlay for the implementation of this ordinance. Initial funds will be sourced from the CY 2023 Annual Budget of the Provincial Veterinary Office. Thereafter, the funds to be used for the purpose of this ordinance shall come from the subsequent appropriations and from donations, fees and fines collected, subject to all accounting and auditing laws, rules and procedures.

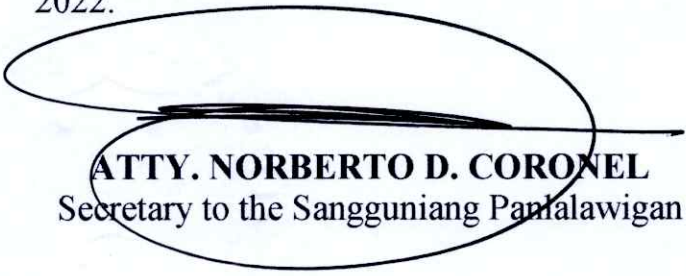
Section 4. Separability Clause. If any portion of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts thereof which are not otherwise affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, resolutions, local executive issuances, and/or administrative rules and regulations inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

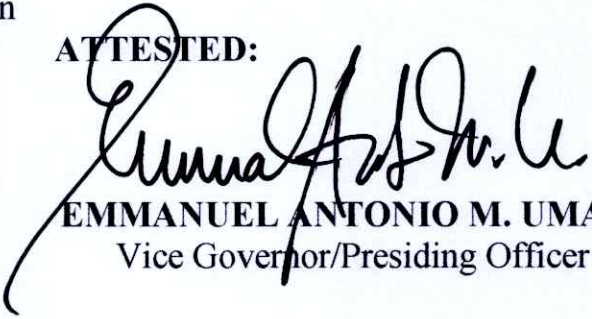
Section 6. Effectivity Clause. This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after it has been published in a local newspaper of general circulation.

ENACTED, December 9, 2022.

I **HEREBY** certify to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance No. 67-S-2022.


ATTY. NORBERTO D. CORONEL
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

ATTESTED:


EMMANUEL ANTONIO M. UMALI
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


AURELIO M. UMALI

Governor

Date:

