

SEP 15 2010

SENATE  
P.S. RES. NO. 877



---

Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

---

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT ON THE ANIMAL WELFARE ENFORCEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE SITUATION OF MALI, THE ELEPHANT, AND OTHER ANIMALS HELD IN SANCTUARIES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF ANIMALS IN THE COUNTRY.**

**Whereas**, the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that “[t]he State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;”

**Whereas**, the Philippine legislature has enacted Republic Act (RA) 8485 “an act to promote animal welfare in the Philippines, otherwise known as “the animal welfare act of 1998”;

**Whereas**, it is the purpose of RA 8485 “to protect and promote the welfare of all animals in the Philippines by supervising and regulating the establishment and operation of all facilities utilized for breeding, maintaining, keeping, treating, or training of all animals either as objects of trade or as household pets;”

**Whereas**, recently the country has been plagued by recent reports of animal exploitation as shown by the live streaming of dog fights and collecting bets from foreign patrons through the Internet and as shown in YouTube depicting the poor treatment of a dog that was tied to a moving tricycle;

**Whereas**, in some Philippine animal sanctuaries, particularly public zoos, the visitors and/or patrons —children and adults alike— witness the deplorable state of public zoos and the troubling treatment of its caged animals most of which are documented and complained of in the blogosphere;

**Whereas**, the local and international media recently caught our attention of a lone elephant in the Manila Zoo, named Vishwamali (“Mali”), an approximately 38-year-old female Asian elephant;

**Whereas**, non-government organizations related to animal welfare, foreign scientists and veterinarians alike, have clamored for the immediate transfer of Mali to a bigger sanctuary appropriate to an elephant;

**Whereas**, in the report of Mr. Mel Richardson that examined Mali, he stated that Mali suffers from potential foot problems and that the only way to ensure her physical and psychological well-being is to relocate her to an elephant sanctuary, where she can be cared for by elephant experts;

**Whereas**, in light of these developments it is necessary to assess the current situation of animals in the Philippines— whether in sanctuaries or in domestic care alike— and the feasibility of reviewing Republic Act No. 8485: An act to Promote Animal Welfare In The Philippines, Otherwise Known As “The Animal Welfare Act Of 1998” and other related laws on animal care;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to urge the appropriate Committee/s to conduct an assessment on the animal welfare enforcement in the Philippines taking into consideration the situation of Mali, the elephant, and other animals held in sanctuaries with the end in view of ensuring the safety and protection of animals in the country.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR