



SENATE
P. S. Res No. 295

20 JAN 22 5 3 29

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE STATUS OF THE ANIMALS LEFT BEHIND
DURING THE TAAL ERUPTION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING
FOR THEIR INCLUSION IN EVACUATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
PLANS

1 WHEREAS, Section 1 of Republic Act Act 8485 as amended by RA 10631,
2 otherwise known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998", provides it is the purpose of
3 this Act to protect and promote the welfare of the terrestrial, aquatic and marine
4 animals in the Philippines by supervising and regulating the establishment and
5 operations of all facilities utilized for breeding, maintaining, keeping, treating or
6 training of all animals either as objects of trade or as household pets. For this
7 purpose of this Act, pet animal shall include birds.

8 For the purpose of this Act, animal welfare pertains to the physical and
9 psychological well-being of animals. It includes, but not limited to, the avoidance of
10 abuse, maltreatment, cruelty and exploitation of animals by humans by maintaining
11 appropriate standards of accommodation, feeding and general care, the prevention
12 and treatment of disease and the assurance of freedom from fear, distress,
13 harassment, and unnecessary discomfort and pain, and allowing animals to express
14 normal behavior;

15 WHEREAS, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
16 (PHIVOLCS) director Renato Solidum said the Taal Volcano in Batangas spewed
17 ashes in phreatic eruption on January 12, 2020 due to hydro-thermal activities at
18 around 11:00 a.m. and after three hours, a strong explosion was recorded around

19 2:00 p.m. and the volcano spewed a kilometer-tall of ash column. Furthermore,
20 three earthquakes were felt around 07:35 a.m., 10:43 a.m., and 14:00 p.m.;

21 WHEREAS, PHILVOCS reminded the public that the main crater should be
22 strictly off-limits because sudden steam explosions can occur and high
23 concentrations of lethal volcanic gases can be released. The entire Volcano Island is
24 a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ), and permanent settlement in the island is strongly
25 not recommended;

26 WHEREAS, According to ABS-CBN, some 18,000 residents have been
27 evacuated from the ongoing volcanic activity of Taal volcano, many animals were left
28 behind by their owners who fled their areas amid the dangers of the eminent
29 eruption;

30 WHEREAS, an article from the Manila Standard, dated January 19, 2020,
31 reported that animal welfare groups have bonded together to rescue all animals
32 from towns in Batangas identified by the government as danger zones. They were
33 given 72 hours starting January 16 to rescue all the trapped animals;

34 WHEREAS, among the animal welfare groups authorized to conduct rescue
35 work are Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF), CARA, Pag-Amuna, Philippine Animal
36 Welfare Society (PAWS), Save Animals of Love and Light (Save ALL) and Whelps;

37 WHEREAS, among the towns where animal rescuers are conducting rescues
38 are Agoncillo, Alitagtag, Balete, Cuenca, Laurel, Lemery, Malvar, Mataas na Kahoy,
39 San Nicolas, Sta. Teresita, Taal and Talisay;

40 WHEREAS, animal welfare groups have been on the ground helping bring
41 animals, including livestock, to safety.

42 WHEREAS, aside from horses, cows and other livestock, some 30,000 dogs
43 and cats in these towns have been affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano;

44 WHEREAS, a Senate inquiry on the matter is necessary in order to include the
45 animals in evacuation and disaster risk reduction plans for future natural calamities
46 therefore ensuring their safety and welfare;

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of the animals left behind during the Taal eruption, with the end in view of providing for their inclusion in evacuation and disaster risk reduction plans.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator