

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

DEPT

01 JUL 27 P 5 42

SENATE  
S. No. **1942**

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8485, also known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998" is the primary law punishing cruelty to animals. Section 8 of said Act provides for the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than two (2) years or a fine or not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000) nor more than Five thousand pesos (P5,000) or both at the discretion of the Court, for the violation of the provisions of the Act.

However, I believe that the penalty for the violation of the Act is too low to serve as a deterrent. In the United Kingdom, the penalty for the violation of their animal welfare act is £20,000.

The Network for Animals noted that many of those arrested for violation of Republic Act no. 8485 are repeat offenders. They can afford to commit the violation again because the penalties are too low.


Therefore, in order to make the law an effective deterrent to the commission of future violations of the Animal Welfare Act, a higher, more realistic penalty should be imposed.<sup>1</sup>

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed in the Thirteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

10 JUL 22 1952

SENATE  
S. No. **1942**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT  
2 AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, ALSO KNOWN AS  
3 THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998, SECTION 8 ON THE PENALTIES FOR THE  
4 VIOLATION OF THE ACT

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8485, also known as the Animal Welfare Act  
6 of 1998 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 Section 8. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon  
8 conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment of not less than TWO (2) years nor  
9 more than FIVE (5) years or a fine or not less than TWENTY thousand pesos (P20,000) nor  
10 more that FIFTY thousand pesos (P50,000) or both at the discretion of the Court. If the violation  
11 is committed by a juridical person, the officer responsible therefore shall serve the imprisonment  
12 when imposed. If the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately deported  
13 after service of sentence without any further proceedings.

14 SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
15 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent  
16 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

17 SECTION 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
18 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

19 Approved,