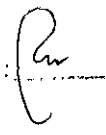


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

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SENATE

RECEIVED



P. S. Res. No. 578

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRADE AND COMMERCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PREVALENCE OF ILLEGAL DOG MEAT TRADE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING AND TIGHTENING EXISTING ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICIES IN TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION, ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTION AND PENALTIES**

*Whereas*, Sec. 6 of Republic Act 8485 or the Philippine Animal Welfare Act of 1998 states, "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*, it is provided in the same law, "The killing of any animal other than cattle pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, carabaos, horses, deer and crocodiles is likewise hereby declared unlawful XXX";

*Whereas*, further, Sec. 7, Number (7) of Republic Act 9482 or the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007 expressly prohibits the trade of dog meat for health reasons;

*Whereas*, dog meat eating has existed as a long-standing cultural phenomenon in the Northern provinces of the Philippines, traditionally associated with celebratory events and rituals of mourning;<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, dog meat has entered into mainstream consciousness that it has earned a dish called 'asocena' which is meant to be eaten as 'pulutan' (side dish) during drinking sessions;

*Whereas*, through the years, incidences of illegal dog trading has increased for commercial rather than cultural reasons, as evidenced by numerous raids and seizures initiated by concerned animal rights groups in cooperation with local police authorities;

*Whereas*, rescued dogs bound for makeshift slaughterhouses were found with their front paws tied behind their backs and their muzzles gagged with a nylon cord or in jagged, rusty tin cans which cause their tongues to be swollen;

*Whereas*, during transport, the dogs are often crammed into cages, with some even trussed in sacks, which leaves them gasping for air;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.networkforanimals.org/take-action-against-dog-meat-trade.php?section=fastfacts>

*Whereas*, in their miserable condition, some dogs die even before reaching their destination;

*Whereas*, approximately 500,000 dogs are slaughtered for sale every year;<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, the Philippines' dog meat industry rakes in P174 million annually, according to the nongovernment organization Linis Gobyerno;<sup>3</sup>

*Whereas*, during slaughter, dogs are being clubbed or have their throats cut while still conscious, their fur is singed off with a blowtorch, and their bodies dismembered for ready distribution to restaurants or small eateries;

*Whereas*, a dog meat trader arrested in Tondo, Manila in September 2010 scalps dogs instead of burning their fur and skin with blowtorch, as is the usual practice, to avoid emitting strong odors which could annoy the community;<sup>4</sup>

*Whereas*, Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Iloilo and Negros supply dogs to the provinces of Benguet, La Union and Ilocos Sur where they are slaughtered and consumed;

*Whereas*, separate rescue operations, raids and arrests were done in places like Pangasinan, La Union, Tarlac, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija upon information given by concerned individuals;

*Whereas*, international animal rights groups such as the Network for Animals, Sirius GAO (Global Animal Organization), Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and its global arm, Humane Society International (HSI), and International Wildlife Coalition Trust (IWCT) work in close cooperation with similar groups in the Philippines to monitor developments in the implementation of laws related to dog meat trading, report raids which they regularly post and/or broadcast online, and actively campaign to stop the illegal practice;

*Whereas*, there is an urgent need to end cruelty to animals as espoused in the Animal Welfare Act: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Trade and Commerce and Local Government, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the prevalence of illegal dog meat trade, with the end in view of reviewing and tightening existing animal protection policies in terms of implementation, enforcement, prosecution and penalties.

Adopted,

  
MANNY VILLAR  
Senator

<sup>2</sup> <http://hsus.typepad.com/wayne/2007/09/philippines-dog.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/-depth/06/28/11/gone-dogs>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.iwct-uk.org/operations.html>