
Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recently, a photograph of a dog stuffed in a sack, tied to the rear of a Sports Utility Vehicle, and transported through the city streets spread virally on the internet. It has since spread like wildfire through social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter causing outrage online.

Several months ago, another tale of animal cruelty was in the news. It was reported that a syndicate was producing "crush videos" and selling them in the black market. A crush video features animals being stepped upon and crushed to death. The said videos were supposed to cater to certain individuals who found such acts entertaining.

In both cases, citizens unanimously branded the acts as cruel. Animal welfare groups have been trying to assist law enforcers in the prosecution of the perpetrators. Unfortunately, the organizations fear that their conviction would not deter similar acts in the future because the current law provides for miniscule penalties. Republic Act No. 8485 or the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 states that any person who violates any of the provisions of the Act shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months nor more than (2) years or a fine of not less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court.

The English jurist, William Jones, said that "Cruelty to animals is one of the distinguishing vices of low and base minds. Wherever it is found, it is a certain mark of ignorance and meanness; a mark which all the external advantages of wealth, splendour, and nobility, cannot obliterate. It is consistent neither with learning nor true civility."

The public sentiment in favor of better treatment for animals must be translated into public policy. Thus, there is a need to put more teeth into the law against those who engage and trade on animal cruelty.

This bill seeks to provide a higher penalty for those who violate R.A. 8485, entitled “An Act To Promote Animal Welfare In The Philippines, Otherwise Known As ‘the Animal Welfare Act Of 1998.’”

miriam defensor santia
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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SENATE
S. No. **3154**

REPORT BY: *Per*

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1 AN ACT
2 AMENDING SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE
3 ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998" BY INCREASING THE PENALTY PROVIDED

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

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

6 SECTION 8: Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Act shall,
7 upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment of not less
8 than six (6) months nor more than FIVE (5) years or a fine of not less than
9 TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) or both at the discretion of the
10 Court. If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the officer responsible
11 thereof shall serve the imprisonment when imposed. If the violation is
12 committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately deported after the service
13 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 inconsistent
16 with, the provisions 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.

Approved,

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