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SENATE

S. No. 209

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Introduced by Senator **GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Animal cruelty is a repulsive act against some of the most vulnerable members of society. During the past years, public interest in animal rights has intensified dramatically. Serious efforts by animal welfare advocates to prevent animal cruelty have paved the way for the enactment of Republic Act No. 8485 entitled, An Act to Promote Animal Welfare in the Philippines, Otherwise Known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998." The purpose of the said law is to protect and promote the welfare of all animals in the Philippines.

Consistent with this objective, RA 8485 provides penalties for violation of any provisions of said law including, among others, torture, neglect and maltreatment of animals. However, reports reveal a high incidence of cruelty to animals, the most recent of which was the rescue of more than 300 dogs from an online dog-fighting racket run by South Koreans in a raid conducted in Calauan and San Pablo City in Laguna. Most of the dogs were pitbull mixed breeds. Several dogs were found to be extremely malnourished and badly injured.

Under RA 8485, violators of any provisions of said law shall be punished by imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to two (2) years or a fine ranging from One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court. In view of the rampant proliferation of cruelty to animals, it only shows that the penalties imposed under the present law are not enough to deter the commission of prohibited acts.

This bill seeks to put more teeth to RA 8485 by imposing stiffer penalties to violators especially those who shall subject any dog or horse to dogfights or horsetights, in which case, violators shall not benefit from Presidential Decree No. 968 or the Probation Law.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
Senator

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



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SENATE

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S. No. 209

Introduced by **Senator GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485 ENTITLED, AN ACT
TO PROMOTE THE ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE PHILIPPINES OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998".

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

SECTION 1. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8485 entitled, An Act to Promote Animal Welfare in the Philippines Otherwise Known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 8. Any person who violates any provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment of not less than **FOUR YEARS** [six (6) months] nor more than **SIX (6)** [two (2)] years or a fine of **THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS (P30,000.00)** [not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) nor more than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00)] or both at the discretion of the Court. **PROVIDED, THAT ANY PERSON WHO SHALL SUBJECT ANY DOG OR HORSE TO DOGFIGHTS OR HORSEFIGHTS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 6 HEREOF SHALL BE PUNISHED BY IMPRISONMENT OF SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY TO EIGHT (8) YEARS OR A FINE OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.** If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the officer responsible therefor shall serve the imprisonment when imposed. If the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately deported after service of sentence without any further proceedings."

Sec. 2. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 3. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,