Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

Numerous cases of missing pets are reported everyday. Many pets, which have been separated from their owners, have remained unfound due to lack of information and assistance. Losing a pet can be a traumatic and stressful experience not only for the owners, but for the animals, especially ones that have been injured or frightened.

This bill seeks to create the first national pet registry and database for missing pets and found strays. The Registry will tie all pets' pertinent information into a national database. Through registration, shelters, vets, pet organizations and individuals will have the ability to notify the owner immediately should a missing pet end up in their care. Every pet will have an online profile with veterinary / medical records, emergency contacts, tattoos, photos, histories, medical logs, and certifications. On the other hand, the Missing Pets and Found Strays Database shall be equipped with a search engine so that all reports for lost pets can be uploaded and categorized, enabling users to find possible matches. The database will be readily accessible through the internet.

The internet can become a valuable tool in the search for missing pets. Its speed in information dissemination is incomparable. Its capacity to store vast amounts of digital records is an ideal way to manage the volume of files that are anticipated in these cases.

Through this tool, the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture shall be able to assist families reunite with their beloved pets.*

**MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO**

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* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
S. No. **1320**

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 MANDATING THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN
3 A PUBLIC WEBSITE THROUGH WHICH INDIVIDUALS MAY FIND A PET REGISTRY
4 AND A COMPLETE DATABASE OF MISSING PETS AND FOUND STRAYS

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "National Pet Registry Act."

6 SECTION 2. *Definitions.* – The purposes of this Act, the term –

7 A.      MISSING PET - means any domesticated animal whose whereabouts is unknown

8 to the reporting party;

9 B.      STRAY - means any domestic animal found at large whose owner is unidentified;

10 and

11 C.      DIRECTOR - means the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

12 SECTION 3. *Pet Registry.* – The Director shall establish and maintain, in a public

13 website, a pet registry. Pet owners shall be encouraged to register their pets through this website.

14 This database shall contain information which can identify the pet including, but not limited to,

15 photographs, breed, color, identifying marks, and shall also include a profile with

16 veterinary/medical records, emergency contacts, histories, medical logs, and certifications. Each

17 pet shall be assigned a custom and numbered identification tag. This tag is intended to allow the

18 pet to be immediately identified in case it is lost.

19 SECTION 4. *Pets and Found Strays Database.* – The Director shall establish and

20 maintain, in a public website, a database consisting of information on missing pets and found

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1    strays. The database shall be engineered such that the general public will be able to search for

2    matches between missing pets and found stray records. Access to this database shall be free of

3    charge.

4        SECTION 5. *Unidentified Found Stray Database.* – This database shall contain

5    information entered by individuals, animal shelters, and other agencies, which shall include

6    photographs, physical characteristics, and other information that will help in the identification of

7    the found stray.

8        SECTION 6. *Useful links.* – The website shall contain links to various kennel clubs,

9    animal welfare societies, and veterinary organizations, including but not limited to:

10       A.    Philippine Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PSPCA);

11       B.    Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS);

12       C.    Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment

13   and Natural Resources (DENR);

14       D.    Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA);

15       E.    Veterinary Practitioners Association of the Philippines (VPAP);

16       F.    Philippine Animal Hospital Association of the Philippines (PAHA);

17       G.    Philippine Canine Club, Inc. (PCCI).

18       SECTION 7. *Dissemination of Information on Database.* - The Director shall take such

19   action as may be necessary on an ongoing basis, including sending notices to schools, welfare

20   agencies, and other institutions, to disseminate information on the database established and

21   maintained under this Act and to encourage its use by interested parties.

22       SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* –The amount necessary for the initial implementation of

23   this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Agriculture under the

24   current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its full

1   implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and

2   separate item.


3       SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or

4   unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain

5   valid and subsisting.


6       SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive

7   order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent

8   with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.


9       SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its

10  publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.


        Approved,