

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

15 NOV 26 P4 58

SENATE
S. No. 3019

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

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 of 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, 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.

Reports say that about 300,000 dogs are being killed every year in the Philippines to be served as "pulutan" – appetizer for alcoholic beverages. 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.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
7P

¹ This bill was filed during the Fourteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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

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

3 SECTION 8. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this
4 Act shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment
5 of not less than [~~six (6) months nor more than~~] two (2) years **NOR MORE**
6 **THAN FIVE (5) YEARS** or a fine of not less than [~~One thousand pesos~~
7 ~~(P1,000) nor more than Five thousand pesos (P5,000)] **TWENTY (20)**
8 **THOUSAND PESOS NOR MORE THAN FIFTY (50) THOUSAND**
9 **PESOS** or both at the discretion of the Court. If the violation is committed
10 by a juridical person, the officer responsible therefore shall serve the
11 imprisonment when imposed. If violation is committed by an alien, he or
12 she shall be immediately deported after served sentence without any
13 further proceedings.~~

14 SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
15 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
16 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

1 **SECTION 3. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
2 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/s/110Nov2015