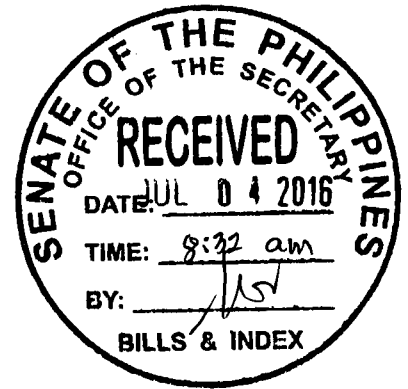


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 235



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

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

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 No. 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, including 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 No. 8485 as amended, violators of any provisions of said law shall be punished by imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to three (3) years or a fine ranging from Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000.00) to Two Hundred Fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court. It is submitted 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 No. 8485 by imposing stiffer penalties to violators especially those who shall subject any dog or horse to dogfights or horsefights, in which case, violators shall not benefit from Presidential Decree No. 968 or the Probation Law, as amended thereby rendering their business venture unprofitable.

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

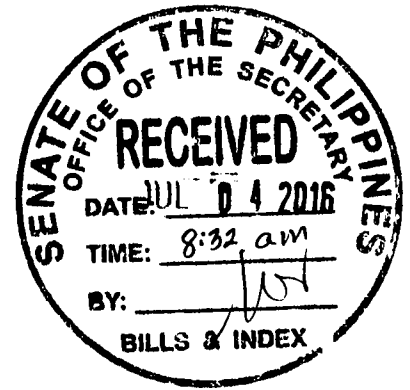


GREGORIO B. HONASAN II
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **Section 1.** A new Section 9-A is hereby inserted in Republic Act No. 8485, as
2 amended, to read as follows:

3
4 **ANY PERSON WHO SHALL SUBJECT ANY DOG OR HORSE TO DOGFIGHTS OR**
5 **HORSEFIGHTS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 6 HEREOF SHALL BE PUNISHED BY**
6 **IMPRISONMENT OF SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE (1) DAY TO EIGHT (8) YEARS OR A**
7 **FINE OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00) OR BOTH AT THE**
8 **DISCRETION OF THE COURT.**

9
10 **Sec. 2. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations
11 inconsistent with or contrary to this Act, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

12
13 **Sec. 3. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,