

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

SENATE  
S.B. No. 3023

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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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 or 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, I believe that 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.

Just recently, at least 112 dogs were saved from ending up as a tasty dish of “azucena” after policemen intercepted an alleged delivery run along EDSA in Balintawak, Quezon City. The police discovered that the offender is a repeat offender. 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.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*def*

SENATE  
S.B. No. 2033

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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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

*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, also known as the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 8. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment of not less than TWO (2) years nor more than FIVE (5) years or a fine or not less than TWENTY thousand pesos (P20,000) nor more than FIFTY thousand pesos (P50,000) or both at the discretion of the Court. If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the officer responsible therefore 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.

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,