



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DIGOS CITY DIVISION

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

SGOD-2026-765

To : **FRANCES MILLICENT R. DURANO, RN**
Nurse II / Rabies Program Focal

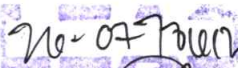
Subject : **ATTENDANCE IN THE FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF
THE DAVAO DEL SUR RABIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Date: July 21, 2026

1. Attached is a letter from the Provincial Veterinary Office inviting this Division to the First Organizational Meeting of the Davao del Sur Rabies Coordinating Committee.
2. The meeting aims to formally convene the Council, orient member agencies on their respective roles and responsibilities, present the current rabies situation in the province, discuss the proposed Provincial Rabies Prevention and Control Work Plan, and strengthen inter-agency coordination in support of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program.
3. In this regard, the above-mentioned personnel is hereby designated to attend the said meeting as the official representative of the Schools Division of Digos City.
4. The meeting will be held on **July 24, 2026 (Friday) at the PHO Conference Room, Lim Street, Digos City.**
5. Relevant details and information are provided in the enclosures.
6. For the information, guidance and compliance.


MELANIE P. ESTACIO, PhD, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

Schools Division of Digos City
RECORDS SECTION


RELEASED
DATE: 22 JUL 2026 TIME: 1:00 PM
BY: 

Enclosed: As stated.
SGOD/HNU/fmrd



Address: Roxas cor. Lopez Jaena Street, Zone II, Digos City (8002)
Telephone Nos.: (082) 553-8375; (082) 553-8396



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR
Mati, Digos City
-o0o-
PROVINCIAL VETERINARY OFFICE
pvodavaodelsur@yahoo.com



July 16, 2026

MELANIE P. ESTACIO, PhD, CESO VI

Schools Division Superintendent
DepEd – Digos City
Roxas St., Digos City

Dear **Madam**,

Greetings of Prosperity and Good Health!

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the *Anti-Rabies Act of 2007*, relevant issuances of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Provincial Rabies Prevention and Control Ordinance of Davao del Sur, you are hereby invited to attend the **First Organizational Meeting of the Davao del Sur Rabies Coordinating Committee** to be held on **July 24, 2026, 9am**, at **PHO Conference Room, Lim St., Digos City**.

The meeting aims to formally convene the Council, orient member agencies on their respective roles and responsibilities, present the current rabies situation in the province, and discuss the proposed Provincial Rabies Prevention and Control Work Plan to strengthen inter-agency coordination in support of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program.

The proposed agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Remarks
3. Presentation of Council Members
4. Orientation on the Legal Bases
5. Presentation of the Current Rabies Situation in Davao del Sur per locality
6. Discussion of Roles and Responsibilities of Member Agencies
7. Presentation and Adoption of the Provincial Rabies Prevention and Control Work Plan
8. Creation of Technical Working Groups
9. Other Matters
10. Summary of Agreements and Next Steps and Adjournment

In view thereof, your attendance or the attendance of your duly authorized representative is highly requested to ensure the successful organization and implementation of the Provincial Rabies Prevention and Control Program.
For your information and appropriate action.

Your cooperation and prompt action on this matter is highly appreciated.

Yours truly,


CATHERINE S. RESURRECCION, DVM
Provincial Veterinarian

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR
Bayang Matibay, Digos City



17th SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

101st Regular Session
June 18, 2024



ORDINANCE NO. 24-108

Sponsored by: Honorable Francisco B. Tongcos, MD
Co-Sponsored by all the SP Members present

Present:

Riafe Cagas Fernandez Vice Governor /Presiding Officer	
Hon. Vic R. Cadungog, CPA, REB	Hon. Rey Q. Ayo
Hon. Carmelo R. de las Cintas III, LLB	Hon. Francisco B. Tongcos, MD
Hon. Anna Margarita A. Razonable, LLB	Hon. Lanier R. Cadungog, RN, RTRP
Hon. Shiela B. Cagas, LPT	Hon. Bae Norma O. Rivera
Hon. Mark Joel A. Gallardo	Hon. Justin Adrian F. Siao
	Hon. Dyane Therese G. Idulsa, MBA

On Leave:

Hon. Merlin B. Bello, LLB	Hon. Rolando T. Daligdig, Jr.
Hon. Simplicio A. Latasa	

ALL SP MEMBERS

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL AND ELIMINATION OF
RABIES, THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PROVINCIAL RABIES
COORDINATING COMMITTEE, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES
FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as "The Provincial Anti- Rabies Ordinance of Davao del Sur."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY- It is the declared policy of the Provincial Government of Davao del Sur to be a rabies-free province and to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Towards this end, a system for the control, prevention of the spread, and eventual eradication of human and animal rabies shall be provided and the need for responsible pet ownership established.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS – When used in this ordinance the following terms shall be understood to have the following meaning, to wit:

1. Animal Bite Center (ABC) - refers to the private facility providing PrEP and PET for rabies
2. Animal Bite Treatment Center (ABTC)- refers to the government facility providing PrEP and PET for rabies who is duly recognized by the Department of Health

[Signature]
YVONNE ROKA CAGAS
Governor

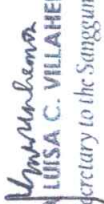
[Signature]
RIAFE CAGAS FERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer

[Signature]
MARIA LUISA C. VILLAHERMOSA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

3. Animal Breeder - a person engaged in the business of breeding companion animals for profit.
4. "Askal" - a colloquial name for local native dog referring to "asong kalye or street dog"; or "Asong Pinoy" (Aspin for brevity);
5. Bitten - refers to an act by which a dog (or any animal) seizes, cuts and grips with its teeth so that the skin of a person has been wounded, pierced or scratched;
6. Cold Chain Management - refers to proper handling of vaccine to maintain its potency;
7. Disease surveillance - refers to the conduct of various disease monitoring activities such as blood, fecal and tissue sampling including contact tracing;
8. Dog- refers to a common quadruped domestic animal belonging to the order of Carnivore (male or female), scientifically known as *Canis familiaris*;
9. Enclosed premises - refers to the dog owner's house, or fenced property, where other people have no reason to enter except to conduct business or visit with the members of the household;
10. Euthanasia - refers to the process of painless death to dogs and other animals;
11. Humane Procedures- shall mean the use of the most scientific methods available as maybe determined and approved by the Committee;
12. Impound - refers to seizing and holding of dogs;
13. Immunization – a process by which a person becomes protected against a disease thru vaccination. This term is often used interchangeably with vaccination or inoculation. Anti-rabies immunization refers to either active or passive.
 - a. Active immunization – refers to the administration of a vaccine to induce protective immune response;
 - b. Passive immunization- refers to the administration of pre-formed antibodies (immune globulins or passive immunization products) to provide an immediate protection.
14. Neutering- is the removal of an animal's reproductive organ, either all of it or a considerably large part. It is also called as "castration;"
15. Owner - any person keeping, harboring or having charge, care or control of a dog including his/her representative;
16. Post-Exposure Treatment (PET) - refers to an anti-rabies treatment administered after an exposure to rabies, which includes local wound care, rabies vaccine, with or without anti-rabies immunizing agents
17. Pound -refers to a public enclosure for stray animals;
18. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) - refers to rabies vaccination administered before an exposure to rabies to those who are at high risk of getting rabies;
19. Public Place - refers to any place open to the public like parks, malls, markets, streets and the like;
20. Purebred- a dog that belongs to a group of unmixed lineage or without a mixture of breed;
21. Rabies- refers to a highly fatal disease caused by a lyssa virus, transmitted mainly through the bite of an infected animal and is characterized by muscle paralysis, hydrophobia and aerophobia, and other neurological manifestations;
22. Rabies Risk Areas- areas that have high concentration of stray dogs and cats and areas with positive rabies cases;
23. Rabies transmission -refers to the transmission or passage of the Rabies virus through a bite by an infected animal, or through contamination with virus-laden saliva on breaks in the skin and of mucous membranes such as the eyes, the lips, the mouth, or the genital organs;


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Governor


RIAFE CAGAS FERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer


MARIA LUISA C. VILLAHERMOSA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

24. Rabies Vaccination/Immunoprophylaxis of Humans- refers to the inoculation of humans, with modern day rabies vaccines or Rabies immunoglobulin, by a trained doctor or nurse under the supervision of a qualified medical practitioner;
25. Rabies Vaccination of Dogs- refers to the inoculation of a Dog with a Rabies vaccine by a licensed government or private veterinarian or trained individual under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The services of the said trained individual shall be limited only to Rabies Vaccination Injection in Dogs and only during government mass vaccination campaigns;
26. Stray Dog- refers to any dog leaving it's owner's place or premises and no longer under the effective control of the owner
27. Spaying –is the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus in female animals. It is also called "ovariohysterectomy;"
28. Unregistered dog-refers to dogs which are not properly registered with the Municipal/City Agriculturist Office;
29. Unvaccinated dog-refers to dogs which are not vaccinated by a veterinarian or trained personnel.
30. Whelping –refers to the act of giving birth by dogs;

SECTION 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PET OWNERS. The pet owners shall:

1. Submit their animals to mandatory registration and vaccination.
2. Keep the vaccination card or any document containing all pertinent information for accurate recording and reference purposes;
3. Submit their animals for vaccination against rabies annually;
4. Leash, cage and contain animals within the property to refrain them from going astray and inflict injury to any person or property; the owner shall have civil liability on the damages to person or property caused by his/her animal from having been escaped from leash, shelter or property yard;
5. Muzzle aggressive animals in public places;
6. Collect their animal's feces in public places;
7. Provide their animal with appropriate food, health care, clean shelter, and proper grooming;
8. Report biting incident within 24-hours to proper authorities for appropriate action;
9. Assist immediately the animal bite victims and shoulder the medical expenses incurred and other incidental expenses relative to the victim's injuries as applicable;
10. Feed, isolate and place the biting dog in a cage within 14-day observation period and have it monitored by a government, private veterinarian or trained personnel.
11. Limit your animal from producing by getting them sterilized.

SECTION 5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ANIMAL BREEDERS. The animal breeders shall:

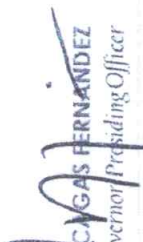
1. Secure animal breeder's permit from the office of the Mayor and certificate from Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industry before starting a business.
2. Only dispose or sell registered and vaccinated animals with anti-rabies vaccination
3. Comply with the provisions of Section 4 hereof.

SECTION 6. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ANIMAL BITE VICTIMS

6.1. The following are the rights of the animal bite victim:

- 6.1.1 To have access to all certified Animal Bite Treatment Centers and Animal Bite Centers.


YVONNE RONA CAGAS
Governor


RHEA CAGAS FERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer


MARIA LUISA C. VILLAHERMOSA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

- 6.1.2 To be assisted immediately by the pet owner, including medical and other incidental expenses relative to the victim's injuries; and
- 6.1.3 To be informed of the condition of the biting animal for the additional vaccine and completion of the 4th dose

6.2 The following are the responsibilities of the animal bite victim:

- 6.2.1 To cleanse thoroughly the wound with soap for at least ten (10) minutes in flowing water;
- 6.2.2 To submit for post exposure treatment to the nearest ABTC/ABC;
- 6.2.3 To complete the recommended vaccination regimen regardless of the status of the biting animal
- 6.2.4 To inform the pet owner of his/her condition;
- 6.2.5 To report the incident to the proper authorities (BLGU, C/MLGU, BHS, RHU, i.e.) concerned;

SECTION 7: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BARANGAY GOVERNMENT- The Barangay LGU shall:

1. Campaign for the registration, vaccination and tagging of every animal.
2. Monitor and ensure that all animal in unfenced surroundings are leashed.
3. Monitor and ensure that all animals are confined within the premises of the owner's house or fenced surroundings.
4. Ensure the enforcement of Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8485 or "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998" as amended by Republic Act No. 10631

4.1 Section 6 of Animal Welfare Act-It shall be unlawful for any person to torture any animal, to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any animal or to subject any dog in dogfights, kill or cause or procure to be tortured or deprived of adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or experiments not expressly authorized by the Committee on Animal Welfare. The killing of any animal other than cattle, pig, goat, sheep, poultry, rabbit, carabao and horse is likewise hereby declared unlawful except in the following instances;

4.1.1. When it is done as part of religious ritual of an established religion or sect or a ritual required by a tribal or ethnic custom of indigenous communities; however, leaders shall keep records in cooperation with the Rabies Control Coordinating Committee;

4.1.2 When the pet animal is afflicted with an incurable communicable disease as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;

4.1.3 When the killing is deemed necessary to put an end to the misery suffered by the animal as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;

4.1.4 When it is done to prevent an imminent danger to the life and limbs of a human being;

4.1.5 When done for the purpose of animal population control;

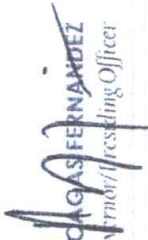
4.1.6 When the animal is killed after it has been used in authorized research or experiments.

4.1.7 Any other ground analogous to the foregoing as determined and certified by a licensed veterinarian.

In all the above - mentioned cases the killing of the animals shall be done through humane procedures at all times

5. Support human rabies surveillance system such as in contact tracing.


YVONNE RONA CAGAS
Governor


RIAFE CAGAS FERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer


MARIA LUISA C. VILLAHERMOSA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

6. Prohibit the trade of dogs for meat:

6.1 The trade of dogs shall include but shall not be limited to buying and/or

6.2 Selling of dogs, dog meat and carcasses, dog farming, collecting, and/or slaughtering of dogs for meat.

7. Require *pet* shops to post information *regarding* rabies and responsible pet ownership;
8. Establish a team to act as secretariat during mass registration and vaccination;
9. Identify and recommend personnel to be trained as vaccinators;
10. Undertake an educational and promotional campaign on responsible pet ownership, with the assistance of NGOs and POs;
11. Provide an incentive system to pet owners whose pets have been spayed or neutered such as free anti-rabies vaccine and antiparasitic medicines;
12. Turn over to the MLGU/CLGU unclaimed impounded animal. Whenever they deemed it necessary, the barangay government may:

In the absence of an impounding area, the Barangay Government may have a holding area for animals which shall be caught and detained for only one (1) day until fetched by the city/municipal government unit for proper impounding, only applicable if animal pound is established in the Municipality/City.

SECTION 8. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUNICIPAL /CITY GOVERNMENT- The Municipal/ City Government shall:

1. Ensure that all animals are properly immunized, registered and issued corresponding animal vaccination card for every immunized and registered animal;
2. Enforce dog Impounding activities and field control to eliminate stray dogs;

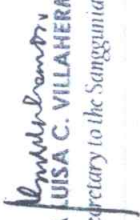
2.1 The municipality/city shall establish dog pounds as prescribed by law or enter into an agreement with private service providers;

2.2 Assist BLGU in the enforcement of animal impounding activities and field control to eliminate stray animals;

3. Monitor the enforcement of Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998" as amended by RA 10631 in the barangays and as stipulated in **Section 7, Paragraph 4 of this Ordinance**;
4. Monitor the implementation on the prohibition of trade of animal for dog meat in the barangay level;
5. Perform euthanasia for unclaimed impounded animal by a duly licensed veterinarian. Provided that electrocution shall not be used as a procedure;
6. Create a team composed of "**dog catchers**" (person trained and authorized in catching animal) and "**receivers**" (person-in-charge in impounding animal);
7. Train animal vaccinators identified by Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU); and in an absence of veterinarians, proceed to the public veterinarian's office;
8. Require pet shops to post information regarding rabies and responsible pet ownership;
9. Spearhead the enforcement of this ordinance, including but not limited to the celebration of Rabies Awareness Month every month of March and World Rabies Day celebrated every **September 28** of each year and undertake an educational and promotional campaign on responsible pet ownership, with the assistance of NGOs and POs;
10. Monitor the implementation of effective human rabies surveillance system in the barangays
11. Provide an incentive system to pet owners whose pets have been spayed or neutered;
 - 11.1 Release animal which have been impounded three (3) times, only after having been spayed or neutered at the expense of the pet owner.
12. Whenever necessary, the Municipal/City Government may:


YVONNE RONA CAGAS
Governor


RIAFE CAGAS FERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer


MARIA LUISA C. VILLAHERMOSA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Allocate funds for the implementation of the Municipal Rabies Prevention and Control Program/City Rabies Prevention and Control Program, particularly on the financing of supplies and human and animal vaccines needed for immunization.

12.1 The municipality/city shall allocate funds for the animal rabies vaccine to cover at least 30% of the animal population according to the established animal population data and growth rate within their jurisdiction;

12.2 The municipality/city shall allocate funds to cover at least 30% of the estimated amount for the Human Anti-Rabies Vaccine/Post Exposure Treatment based on the estimated data of animal bites;

12.3 The municipality/city shall maintain a storage facility for animal and human anti-rabies vaccine;

12.4 The municipality/city shall allocate fund for PrEP of LGU Animal vaccinators.

12.5 The municipality/city may initiate the-decapitation of the suspected Rabid Animal;

12.6 The municipality/city may initiate the transport of the specimen (sample) to accredited testing centers

SECTION 9. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROVINCIAL VETERINARY OFFICE(PVO). The PVO shall:

1. Allocate funds for the implementation of the Provincial Rabies Prevention and Control Program, particularly on the financing of supplies for animal vaccines needed for immunization.

1.1 The Province shall allocate funds for the animal anti-rabies vaccine to cover 70% of the animal population according to the established animal population data and growth rate;

1.2 The Province shall allocate funds to cover 70% of the estimated amount for the Human Anti-Rabies Vaccine/Post Exposure Treatment based on the estimated data of animal bites.

2. Monitor animals' immunization *and* registration;

3. Monitor animal impounding activities in all LGUs within the province;

4. Monitor the enforcement of Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998" as amended by RA 10631 and as stipulated in **Section 7, Paragraph 4** of this Ordinance";

5. Monitor the enforcement of prohibition on the use of electrocution as a *euthanasia procedure*;

6. Undertake an educational and promotional campaign on responsible pet ownership, with the assistance of NGOs and POs;

7. Animal Population control.


YVONNE ROÑA CAGAS
Governor


RIATHE CAGAS FERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer


MARIA LUISA C. VILLAHERMOSA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Section 10. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTER (ABTC)

The ABTC-shall:

1. Ensure the availability of human anti-rabies vaccines to ABTCs.
2. Ensure implementation of cold chain management;
3. Provide pre-exposure prophylaxis to high-risk personnel e.g. health personnel, veterinarians, animal vaccinators.-dog vaccinators and other persons working in furtherance of this ordinance;
4. Include in its Annual Budget as counterpart funds for the *human anti-rabies vaccine* as provided for in **Section 9, Paragraph 1, sub- paragraph 1.2** hereof.
5. Conduct human rabies surveillance, health promotion, monitoring and evaluation.

Section 11. CREATION OF DAVAO DEL SUR RABIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DavSurRCC)-

The Davao del Sur Rabies Control Committee (DavSurRCC). The said committee shall be composed of the following, to wit;

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Honorary Chairperson : | Governor |
| Chairperson : | Provincial Veterinarian |
| Co-Chairperson : | Provincial Health Officer |
| Members : | 1.) Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Chairperson on Health and Sanitation |
| | 2.) SP Chairperson on Agriculture |
| | 3.) Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) |
| | 4.) Provincial Agriculturist |
| | 5.) Provincial Legal Officer |
| | 6.) Provincial Budget Officer |
| | 7.) Provincial Accountant |
| | 8.) Provincial Police Director |
| | 9.) DILG Provincial Director |
| | 10.) Provincial Schools Division Superintendent |
| | 11.) DOH-Provincial Office Representative |
| | 12.) Non-Government Organization(NGO) |
| | 13.) Provincial Information Officer |
| | 14.) Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office |

The members of the said committee shall have the following duties and functions, to wit;

- a) **Governor – Honorary Chairperson**
 - I. Approves policy guidelines towards the attainment of goals.
 - II. Recommends the appropriation of funds for the implementation of programs, projects and activities.
 - III. Conducts regular committee meeting.
 - IV. Decides with finality on all matters pertaining to the program.
 - V. Check that the IRR of R.A. 9482 is properly implemented and adopted for the Local Government Unit (LGU) in use.

b) Provincial Veterinarian – Chairperson

- I. Prepare yearly provincial action plans and submit to the regional coordinator.
- II. Allocate and distribute vaccine to the different municipalities provided that there is sufficient budget for supply and cold storage for vaccines.
- III. Provide actual dog survey and other monitoring data to the regional coordinator.
- IV. Monitor proper vaccine utilization during vaccination campaign.
- V. Assist in training vaccinators during mass immunization.
- VI. Monitor proper implementation of rabies ordinance and dog control measures in all municipalities and city in the province.
- VII. Organize rabies control committees in all municipalities/ city.
- VIII. Initiate and coordinate all rabies control activities in the municipalities/ city.
- IX. Inform municipalities the result of Rabies Laboratory Test of a suspected case.
- X. Consolidate reports of vaccination to be submitted to the regional coordinator.
- XI. Advise the Governor as the Honorary Chairman on all matters pertaining to the improvement of the DavSurRCC.

c) Provincial Health Officer – Co-Chairperson

- I. Prepare yearly provincial action plans and submit to the regional coordinator.
- II. Allocate funds and distribute vaccine to the different ABTCs provided that there is sufficient budget for supply and cold storage for vaccines.
- III. Act as an overseer on undertaking activities that may reduce and eliminate human rabies cases in the province.
- IV. Act as resource person/facilitator during the conduct of trainings/orientations/workshops.
- V. Recommend pertinent strategies for the improvement of the ordinance.
- VI. Consolidate reports of vaccination to be submitted to the regional coordinator.
- VII. Comply with and implement IRR of R.A. 9482 especially provisions on Sections 6B (1)(1), 6B (1)(2), and 6B (1)(3) (Responsibilities of Government Agencies).

MEMBERS

d) SP Chairperson on Health and Sanitation, SP Chairperson on Agriculture and IPMR

- I. Legislate ordinances and resolutions, (whenever deemed necessary) to strengthen Anti-Rabies Control and Prevention program throughout the province.
- II. Participate and assist the committee in the proper implementation of the program

e) Provincial Agriculturist

- I. Provide support in the delivery of agricultural services and provisions of adequate facilities relative to animal health
- II. Recommend pertinent strategies for the improvement of this Ordinance.

f.) Provincial Legal Officer

- I. Initiate and exhaust all means for amicable settlement between opposing parties or individuals
- II. Recommend pertinent strategies for the improvement of the ordinance
- III. Monitor that the IRR of RA 9482 is properly implemented and adopted for the LGU in use.

YVONNE ROMA CAGAS
Governor

RIAFE CAGAS FERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer

MARIA LUISA C. VILLAHERMOSA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

g.) Provincial Budget Officer and Provincial Accountant

- I. In-charge with the budgeting, disbursement and accounting of funds approved and released, relative to this ordinance.

h.) Provincial Police Director

- I. Participate and assist the committee in the proper implementation of the program
- II. Lead in the enforcement and provide assistance and security to various animal population control activities.
- III. Assist in the conduct of information dissemination of anti-rabies ordinance and responsible pet ownership

i.) DILG Provincial Director

- I. Shall ensure compliance of the responsibilities by the LGUs as stated on the provisions of Section 7 (1) to (12) (Responsibilities of LGUs) of IRR of R.A. 9482.

j.) Provincial Schools Division Superintendent

- I. Integrate proper information and education on responsible pet ownership in the relevant subjects in the Elementary and High School Levels including teaching and non-teaching personnel.
- II. Oversee the conduct of seminars on Rabies Control Program and responsible pet ownership.
- III. Comply with and implement IRR of R.A. 9482 especially provisions on Section 6C (1) to (4) (Responsibilities of Government Agencies- Department of Education)

k.) Department of Health (DOH)-Provincial Office Representative

- I. Participate and assist the committee in the proper implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the program
- II. Establish direct link with DOH Regional Office relative to Anti-Rabies Control Program
- III. Provide CapDev to provincial rabies control program coordinators.

l.) Non-Government Organization (NGO) Representative, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office and Provincial Information Officer

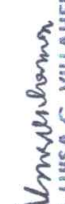
- I. Participate and assist the committee in the proper implementation of the program
- II. Coordinate with LGUs for support and implementation NGO activities in line with the ordinance.
- III. Assist in the conduct of information dissemination of anti-rabies ordinance and responsible pet ownership

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF DAVAO DEL SUR RABIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE (DavSurRCC)

SECTION 12. The Committee shall undertake the planning, implementation and monitoring of all its programs, projects and activities in coordination with the Regional Rabies Prevention and Control Committee (RRPCC) and all concerned government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the end view of eliminating the threat of rabies against the population and inline thereto:


YVONNE RONA CAGAS
Governor


RUFFA CAGAS FERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer


MARIA LUISA C. VILLAHERMOSA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

- a) The Committee may create a **Technical Working Group (TWG)** which shall likewise be multi-sectoral or multi-agency for the purpose of assisting the committee.
- b) The Office of the Provincial Veterinary Office shall act as a Secretariat for the committee. The Secretariat shall be responsible among others in the sending of notices, keeping all minutes, records and documents relative to the meeting or deliberations of the committee and submission of reports to RRPCC.
- c) The Committee, on common consensus shall schedule a regular meeting during the initial year of implementation of the ordinance and every quarter thereafter of the succeeding years; however, a special meeting may be called whenever necessary.
- d) The Committee shall formulate its program, and recommend additional rules and regulations in coordination with RRPCC, as necessary in the implementation thereof.
- e) The Committee shall establish the appropriate organization structure and internal rules governing its operation and management to ensure orderly, consistent and full cooperation of its members effective immediately.
- f) The Committee shall likewise be responsible for the following:
 - I. Identify activities, projects and priority areas for rabies elimination.
 - II. Prepare and recommend budget proposal for the effective implementation of this ordinance.
 - III. Identify other sources of funds and authorize receipt of grants/donations to support the implementation of the program.
 - IV. Recommend the operational budget of the committee and its Secretariat for inclusion in the annual appropriations.
 - V. Monitor the activities contained in the program by the participating agencies and organizations.
 - VI. Recommend the conduct of researches on rabies, vaccination trainings, its prevention control and elimination in coordination with other agencies.
 - VII. Recommend rabies-free areas to the RRPCC for joint declaration of the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health.
 - VIII. Conduct a local performance evaluation annually or as deemed necessary and asses if the objectives of the program were achieved. Corollary, it shall prepare the local annual report.
 - IX. Conduct best practices in the municipal/city level.
- g) The Committee shall monitor dog impounding in compliance with Animal Welfare Act of 1998.
- h) The Committee shall conduct Information Dissemination campaigns to discourage the community in seeking the services of traditional healers "(manopsup/tandok)" as treatment for Rabies.
- i) Identify "rabies risk" areas within the province.
- j) Monitor the submission of budget allocation to be used for Animal Rabies Vaccine and Human Rabies vaccine for rabies control from all LGUs concerned.

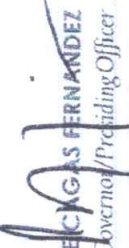
SECTION 13. The committee shall conduct regular monthly meetings and may call special meeting when necessary. The presence of at least half of the members plus one (1) including the chairman shall constitute a quorum.

LOCAL CENTRAL REGISTRY OFFICE AND ANIMAL REGISTRATION

SECTION 14. There shall be a compulsory registration of all cats and dogs under domestication. Registered cats and dogs shall be issued a registration certificate by the C/MLGUs upon verification. Registration shall be governed by the respective C/MLGUs and their constituent barangays.

- 14.1.** The registration certificate shall include the following information:
- a.) Owner's name, address, and telephone/mobile number (if any);


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- b.) Description of the animal (color, sex, markings, date of birth, name, species and breed, if any);
- c.) Dates of vaccination and vaccine expiration;
- d.) Rabies vaccination tag number;
- e.) Manufacturer of the rabies vaccine used;
- f.) Vaccinator's signature (Veterinarian's signature with license number/address)

14.2. A registration fee and tag fee shall be collected. The registration fee and tag fee shall be determined by the C/MLGU.

14.3. Registration of dogs shall be done only in the Municipal /City Veterinary Office or in a particular barangay during scheduled mass registration of animals and rabies activities where the owner of the animal resides.

SECTION 15. The Office of the City/Municipal Veterinarian and Municipal Agriculturist shall be designated as the central registry of all rabies related undertakings in their respective locality. As such, all barangays in the city and municipalities including veterinary clinics and private veterinary practitioners conducting animal vaccinations shall submit updated reports to these offices. Likewise, these offices shall pass consolidated reports monthly to the Provincial Veterinary Office. The aforementioned offices may create their own system in registration, rules and regulations in their locality in line with the ordinance.

SECTION 16. No veterinarian nor any technician shall vaccinate cats and dogs without the issuance of registration certificate.

ANIMAL IMMUNIZATION

SECTION 17. The C/MLGUs in coordination with the Provincial Veterinary Office shall schedule FREE mass anti-rabies vaccination in every barangay for registered cats and dogs giving priority to high risk areas. Likewise, the Provincial, City and Municipal veterinary offices is open to conduct daily vaccination from Monday to Friday to accommodate walk-in unvaccinated cats and dogs.

SECTION 18. Only healthy cats and dogs of at least three (3) months age and older shall be vaccinated against rabies using vaccine registered and licensed by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI). Private veterinarians are allowed to conduct vaccinations with the consent of DavSurRCC. Vaccinated dogs shall still be restrained or kept in cages or enclosed premises and shall not be allowed by their owners to wander in places open to the public, otherwise, such dogs shall be considered stray and is a ground for penalization.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

SECTION 19. Rabies education and "Responsible Pet ownership" modules approved by the NRPCC for inclusion to elementary and high school curriculum will be monitored by the DavSurRCC if properly implemented.

SECTION 20. Public lectures on "Responsible Pet Ownership" and "Rabies Awareness" will also be conducted during public forum and extension services.

SECTION 21. Rabies ads shall be made available through every possible medium of communication at regular basis.


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SECTION 22. NRPCC approved educational reading materials on rabies shall be distributed to different schools, public libraries, barangay halls, ABCs and ABTCs. Poster-versions of such materials shall be sold or provided to pet shops and any other animal related establishments which are required to post the same in their institutions.

PROVISION ON TRADITIONAL HEALERS

SECTION 23. The LGU shall conduct an Information and Education Campaign (IEC) on the management and treatment/medication for an animal bite. However, if an animal bite victim would opt to go to traditional healers for treatment, the LGU shall still advise and encourage the animal bite victim to be treated at the Animal Bite Center.

DOG POUNDING AND ADOPTION

SECTION 24. The DavSurRCC shall encourage the establishment of City or Municipal Dog Pound and barangay withholding pens. The proposed budget for the construction of said barangay withholding pens shall be taken from the barangay Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) while the City/Municipal Pound or Animal Shelter facility will come from the LGU IRA or from any available source. Such barangay or barangays that are unable to provide withholding pens due to lack of space shall coordinate with the nearest barangay/barangays through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and submit to the respective LGU the status of their partnership. The DAVSurRCC shall inspect the premises if it complies with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act of 1998.

SECTION 25. Dog owners shall have three (3) days to claim their animals from barangay withholding pens. After which, all unclaimed dogs shall be transferred to the City/Municipal pound and dog owners shall have another three (3) days from confinement to claim them. Impounded dogs not claimed after three days from the Dog Pound shall be placed for adoption to qualified persons, with the assistance of an animal welfare NGO, when feasible, or otherwise disposed of in any manner authorized, subject to the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998".

SECTION 26. The Dog owner shall be liable to pay the corresponding impounding fee/s or penalties in accordance with existing laws and local ordinance/s of the concerned locality.

SECTION 27. All vicious, temperamental and dangerous dogs must be humanely disposed of under supervision of Animal Welfare Officer, in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act and all existing laws, ordinances, rules and regulations.

SECTION 28. The CLGU/MLGU and its local rabies control committee shall make policies and guidelines for dog adoption in accordance to existing laws and shall likewise ensure to regularly inform the general public about such program.

SLAUGHTERING OF DOGS

SECTION 29. Slaughtering and selling of dogs for meat shall be strictly prohibited. This may spread rabies and other disease especially if the said dogs are stray or of unknown origin. Slaughtering and selling of dog meat include but shall not be limited to buying and/or selling of dogs, dog meat and carcasses, dog farming, collecting and/or slaughter of dogs for commercial consumption.


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Governor


RIAFE CAGAS HERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer


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Secretary to the Sanggunian

SECTION 30. Slaughtering of dogs maybe allowed only as provided in accordance with the provisions of Animal Welfare Act of 1998 or RA 8485, pursuant to Department of Agriculture Administrative Order No. 25, Series of 2007, and as stipulated under **Section 7, Subsections 4.1, 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.1.6 and 4.1.7** of this ordinance.

POST-EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT

SECTION 31. A post-exposure treatment shall be given to any person bitten by an animal at minimum expense or fee subject to the availability of stock, otherwise, the owner of the biting animal shall purchase the needed human vaccine.

SECTION 32. The biting animal shall be observed for a period of fourteen (14) days while the animal bite victim shall undergo preventive vaccination.

SECTION 33. The DavSurRCC shall coordinate with the Department of Health regarding any possible shortage of preventive or anti-rabies vaccines for the succeeding year and formulate a program wherein post-exposure treatment may still be provided by the LGU for FREE through private medical centers or clinics.

REPORTING OF RABIES CASES, OUTBREAK AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

SECTION 34. It is the duty of the owner of the biting animal and the animal bite victim to report the bite incident to the nearest barangay health station or to the nearest ABTCs and ABCs for proper animal bite management within 24 hours after the incident. Should the animal biting die during the observation period of 14 days, the animal's owner shall immediately submit the biting animal for rabies examination.

SECTION 35. The barangay, upon receiving a report, shall guide the victim and coordinate with the City/Municipal Health Offices, Agricultural and Veterinary offices.

SECTION 36. The City/Municipal Agricultural, Veterinary and Health Offices shall conduct a thorough investigation on all incidents of animal and human rabies cases. The C/MLGU will submit reports to the Provincial Epidemiological Surveillance Unit and Provincial Veterinary Office for submission to the Regional Epidemiological Surveillance Unit and DA-Regulatory Division.

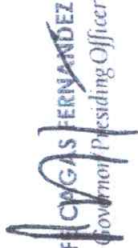
SECTION 37. To assess the extent of rabies incidence in the locality, veterinarians, owners and operators of medical health facilities, etc, shall likewise be required to submit reports to the City/Municipal Agricultural, Veterinary and Health Office.

SECTION 38. All residents in the barangay are also encouraged to report all suspected or confirmed rabies cases in both human and animals to their local RCC and the DAvSurRCC.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OWNER OF THE BITING ANIMAL

SECTION 39. The owner shall be liable to bring the animal bite victim to a doctor. In all dog biting cases, the animal owner shall be liable to pay 100% of all the expenses incurred during the period of medication in cases of negligence or unprovoked bite cases. Failure of the animal owner to assist the animal bite victim shall be penalized in accordance with the penal provisions herein imposed. However, in provoked cases and unlawful entry, the owner shall not be liable to pay.


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ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL MEASURE

SECTION 40. The City/Municipal Veterinary Office and City/Municipal Agriculture Office shall conduct mass neutering of female and male cats and dogs. In the absence of a veterinary office, the MLGU shall coordinate and request from the Provincial Veterinary Office to schedule and conduct mass neutering campaigns. The LGU shall shoulder the majority of the operating costs.

SECTION 41. Dogs which have been impounded three (3) times shall only be released after having been spayed or neutered, at the expense of the Pet's Owner.

SECTION 42. The Local RCC and DAvSurRCC shall promote the advocacy that each household can maintain more than three (3) heads of dogs provided that the owner shall have them leashed or comfortably confined within their premises in order to provide better care by the owner to their pets and as a way to control dog population in the community. Registered dog breeders are allowed to maintain three heads or more.

PENALTIES

CITY/MUNICIPALITY WILL BE THE ONE TO SET THE AMOUNT FOR PENALTIES

SECTION 43. Any and all fines collected pursuant to this Ordinance shall be used for the enhancement of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program within the locality concerned, as well as the achievement of the objectives envisioned in R.A. 9482.

SECTION 44. The following are the acts that can be penalized according to the provisions on Section 11 R.A. 9482 (Penalties), to wit:

- i. Pet owners who shall fail or refuse to have their dog registered and immunize against rabies.
- ii. Pet owners who refuse to have their dog vaccinated against Rabies shall be liable to pay for the vaccination of both the dog and the individuals bitten by their dog.
- iii. Pet Owners who refuse to have their dog put under observation after said dog has bitten an individual.
- iv. Pet Owners who refuse to have their dog put under observation and do not shoulder the medical expenses of the person bitten by their dog.
- v. Pet Owners who refuse to put leash on their dogs when they are brought outside the house.
- vi. An impounded dog shall be released to its owner upon payment of a fine as determined by the respective City or Municipality.
- vii. Any person found guilty of trading dog for meat shall be fined.
- viii. If the violation is committed by an alien, he or she shall be immediately recommended for deportation after service of sentence without any further proceedings.

SECTION 45. To carry out the provision of this Ordinance, a sufficient amount shall be appropriated annually by the province. The funds appropriated for this purpose shall be divided: 60 percent (%) shall be appropriated to the prevention and control of human rabies; and 40 percent (%) shall go to the prevention and control of animal rabies. The annual appropriation for this purpose shall be subject to the availability of funds.


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Governor


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Vice Governor / Presiding Officer

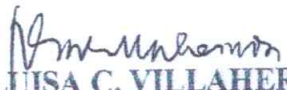

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SECTION 46. REPEALING CLAUSE. Any existing local laws, rules and policies in direct accordance with this Ordinance shall continue to take effect. All other local ordinances, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 47. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. In case any provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 48. Effectivity. This ordinance shall take effect, fifteen (15) days after publication of a newspaper of general circulation.

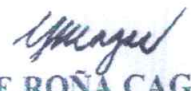
CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:


MARIA LUISA C. VILLAHERMOSA
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED
TO BE DULY ORDAINED:


RIAFE CAGAS FERNANDEZ
Vice Governor/ Presiding Officer

APPROVED BY:


YVONNE ROÑA CAGAS
Governor

Date Approved: 02 JUL 2024



NRPCC RESOLUTION NO. 01
Series of 2026

A RESOLUTION URGENTLY RECOMMENDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) THE MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL VETERINARY OFFICES AND THE IMMEDIATE FILLING OF VACANT VETERINARIAN POSITIONS IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES, AND ELIGIBLE MUNICIPALITIES TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL ELIMINATION OF RABIES BY 2030.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2007," mandates a multi-agency effort to control and eliminate rabies in the Philippines, identifying the appointment of a licensed veterinarian and the establishment of a veterinary office as mandatory for all provinces and cities;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 12308, or the "Animal Industry Development and Competitiveness Act of 2025," further emphasizes the critical role of local veterinary services in safeguarding animal health, food security, and public safety against zoonotic threats;

WHEREAS, under RA 9482, Rabies Vaccination of Dogs refers to the "inoculation of a Dog with a Rabies vaccine by a licensed government or private veterinarian or trained individual under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian," to ensure safe and effective vaccination practices;

WHEREAS, the National Rabies Prevention and Control Committee (NRPCC) has set a strategic goal of achieving 70% vaccination coverage of the national dog and cat population to establish herd immunity, a target that requires consistent, professional, and holistic grassroots program implementation;

WHEREAS, recent field audits conducted by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) reveal that a significant number of Local Government Units (LGUs) have either failed to establish independent Veterinary Offices or have allowed essential veterinarian plantilla positions to remain vacant, resulting in service gaps that limit the delivery of critical functions such as rabies vaccination, which under RA 9482 must be administered by licensed veterinarians or trained individuals under their direct supervision, thereby compromising public health and animal welfare;

WHEREAS, the lack of localized veterinary authority severely hampers high-impact interventions on animal health and welfare programs for food security, food safety and public health;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the NRPPCC formally requests the DILG to issue a Joint Memorandum Circular with the Department of Agriculture (DA) to enforce the following:

1. **Strict Compliance with RA 9482:** Compelling all Provincial Governors and City Mayors to establish a functional and independent Office of the Veterinary Services.
2. **Mandatory Filling of Vacancies:** Directing Local Chief Executives to prioritize the recruitment and appointment of licensed Veterinarians to all vacant positions within the current fiscal year.
3. **Human Resource Allocation:** Encouraging 1st to 3rd class municipalities to create permanent Veterinary positions to manage local rabies outbreaks and stray animal populations effectively.
4. **Performance Monitoring:** Integrating "Veterinary Service Compliance" as a key metric in the **Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG)** to ensure long-term accountability.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the Office of the President, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health, and the League of Provinces, Cities, and Municipalities of the Philippines for their information and immediate action.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED this 9th day of March 2026, during the National Rabies Summit in Quezon City, Philippines.

APPROVED BY:

Chair, NRPPCC

CHRISTIAN P. DAQUIGAN, DVM

Director, Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI)

Vice Chair, NRPPCC

ANNA MARIE CELINA G. GARFIN, MD, MM

Director, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DOH-DPCB)



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA cor. Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City
www.dilg.gov.ph

ADVISORY

FOR : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS,
DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS, AND ALL OTHERS
CONCERNED

SUBJECT : COMPLIANCE WITH MANDATES ON THE APPOINTMENT OF
LICENSED VETERINARIANS

DATE : JUL 14 2026

In line with Republic Act No. 9482 (Anti-Rabies Act of 2007) and DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2014-56, all Local Government Units (LGUs) are hereby reminded of their responsibilities in the strict implementation of rabies prevention and control measures. A key mandate reiterated in the Circular is the appointment of a licensed Veterinarian and establishment of a Veterinary Office in every province, city, and first-class municipality. Other municipalities are likewise enjoined to share expenses in establishing veterinary services, either independently or in partnership with adjoining municipalities and/or private animal shelters.

However, data from the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) reveal a significant disparity in veterinary service capacity across local government units. While 78 of 82 provinces (96%) have established veterinary positions and 131 of 149 cities (88%) maintain veterinary offices, only 48 of 1,493 municipalities (3%) have established veterinary offices.

The appointment of licensed veterinarians is essential to:

1. Ensure proper implementation of rabies vaccination and dog registration programs;
2. Supervise dog impounding, stray dog control, and humane euthanasia procedures;
3. Oversee vaccine storage, distribution, and monitoring;
4. Lead rabies control committees and coordinate with barangays for mass immunization campaigns; and
5. Enforce provisions of the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (RA 8485 as amended by RA 10631).

All LGUs are therefore highly encouraged to:

1. Immediately review compliance with the requirement to appoint licensed veterinarians;

2. Allocate sufficient funds to support veterinary offices and rabies prevention programs; and
3. Report compliance status to their respective DILG Regional Offices.

Failure to comply with these mandates constitutes a violation of existing laws and will subject LGUs to administrative and legal consequences.

For guidance, LGUs are advised to secure a copy of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program Manual of Operations available at the DOH website (www.doh.gov.ph).



UNDERSECRETARY MARLO L. IRINGAN
Officer in Charge, DILG

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