

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6604

Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
PROVIDING THE LIABILITY OF OWNERS FOR DOG BITES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Latest data from the DOH's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control reveal that the Philippines is ranked 6th among countries with the highest reported incidents of rabies in the world. Despite this being a significant improvement from 2000 figures which ranked the country in 3rd place, statistics show that this translates to 350 to 400 Filipinos dying due to rabies annually. These are still alarming figures given that rabies is 100 percent fatal once neglected. But it is also 100 percent preventable if treated immediately.

Republic Act No. 9482 or the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007 was enacted to help prevent the spread of rabies. It mandated that dogs must be vaccinated annually and registered with the local government units. It also prohibited pet owners from allowing their dogs to roam outside their house. It, however, does not focus in promoting responsible ownership of dogs.

This bill, therefore, subjects owners of dogs to damages to encourage them to act responsibly in taking their dogs out in public and in allowing interactions between their dogs and people on their property. More importantly, this will reduce the number of serious injuries resulting from dog bites, and also prevent the spread of rabies.

In view of the paramount importance of this bill, we urge our colleagues to ensure its immediate passage into law.



DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur



GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Liability of Owner for Dog Bites.* – The owner of any dog is liable for damages suffered by any person who is bitten by the dog while in a public place, or lawfully in a private place, including the property of the owner of such dog. A person is lawfully upon the private property of such owner when such person is on such property in the performance of any duty imposed upon him by law, or when he or she is on such property upon the invitation, express or implied, of the owner.

SECTION 2. *Exceptions.* – Nothing in this Act shall authorize the bringing of an action against any government entity or instrumentality using a dog in military or police work if the bite or bites occurred while the dog was defending itself from an annoying, harassing or provoking act, or assisting an employee of the entity or locality in any of the following:

- (A) In the apprehension or holding of a suspect where the employee has a reasonable suspicion of the suspect's involvement in criminal activity;
- (B) In the investigation of a crime or a possible crime;

(C) In the search for Dangerous Drugs and/or Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals;

(D) In the execution of a warrant;

(E) In the defense of a peace officer or another person.

SECTION 3. *Exception to Section 2.* – Section Two of this Act shall not apply in any case where the person who sustained the bite or bites was not a party to, nor suspected to be a party in, the act or acts that prompted the use of the dog in the military or police work. The owner of the dog shall not be liable if the dog was coming to the aid or defense of a person during the commission or attempted commission of a crime or offense upon the owner or custodian or upon the property of the owner or custodian of the dog.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,