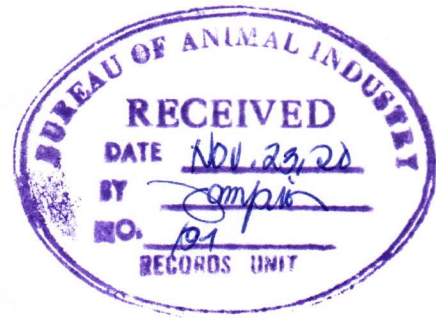




Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
1100 Quezon City



13 November 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 39
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF THE MORATORIUM ON THE CHARGING OF THE LABORATORY FEE FOR RABIES EXAMINATION AT THE ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSIS AND REFERENCE LABORATORY (ADDRL) OF THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY (BAI) AND REGIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES (RADDLs) UNTIL 2025

WHEREAS, a country-centric engagement, empowered by the United Against Rabies collaboration, have been launched globally to drive the changes needed to reach Zero by 30, as we build sustainable institutional capacity and end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies;

WHEREAS, the Philippines having the same goal to be a Rabies-free country by 2030;

WHEREAS, rabies continues to be a public health threat in the Philippines claiming about 200 lives of Filipinos yearly;

WHEREAS, an average of 1,077 laboratory-confirmed animal rabies cases are reported annually for the past 3 years from consolidated reports at the ADDRL of the BAI;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture through the BAI is tasked to maintain and improve the rabies surveillance system under Section 6, A.(4) of Republic Act No. 9482 or the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2007" and in Rule 6A(4)3 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, to ensure that laboratory tests are conducted to confirm reports of incidence of rabies;

WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 11 series of 2016 has provided for a moratorium on the charging of the laboratory fee for rabies examination by the ADDRL of the BAI and the RADDLs until December 31, 2020 only;

WHEREAS, more sample submission still needs to be encouraged for suspect animal rabies cases after 2020 to improve disease surveillance for the better institution of prevention and control measures;

NOW THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby order the extension of the moratorium for the next five years from January 1, 2021 until December 31, 2025.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
in replying pls cite this code :
For Signature: S-11-20-0387
Received 11/18/2020 10:14 AM

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with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk*

