



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY**  
5 Visayas Avenue, Barangay Vasra, Quezon City 1128

(+632)8528-2240 director@bai.gov.ph www.bai.gov.ph @bai.gov.ph

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

NO. 03  
SERIES OF 2025

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM (AWP) UNDER THE LOCALLY FUNDED PROJECT FY 2025**

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act (RA) 8485 as amended by RA 10631 otherwise known as the “Animal Welfare Act of 1998” was promulgated to protect and promote the welfare of all animals in the Philippines.

**WHEREAS**, RA 9482 or the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007” was enacted to prevent, control and eliminate animal and human rabies with the ultimate goal of protecting human health.

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) are mandated to lead in the implementation and enforcement of RA 8485 and RA 9482.

**WHEREAS**, good animal welfare supports good animal health, which in turn contributes to productivity, food safety, human health and well being including economic benefits.

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of both laws given the increasing community concern and activism regarding animal welfare and rabies.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Bureau of Animal Industry is implementing the Animal Welfare Program which will focus on promoting Animal Welfare through regulation, policy making, and rabies prevention and control pursuant to RA 8485 as amended and RA 9482.

**I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

The Animal Welfare Program of the Department of Agriculture under the FY 2025 Locally-funded Program is aimed at protecting and promoting the welfare of all animals in the Philippines by implementing and enforcing the provisions of RA 8485 and RA 9482. Animal Welfare is a globally accepted and practiced concept that cuts across all industries. It is becoming a subject of interest amongst all industries as better understanding leads to economic growth and improvements in public health, hence, it is an integral component towards our goal of food security, food safety, public health and public safety.

**II. SCOPE**

These guidelines shall govern the implementation of the Program under the Locally Funded Program FY 2025. It shall facilitate the direction of the program for fund utilization, monitoring, evaluation and other relevant processes involved in the implementation of the Program.



“Our organization is certified according to ISO 9001”

*Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya*



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY**  
5 Visayas Avenue, Barangay Vasra, Quezon City 1128

(+632)8528-2240 director@bai.gov.ph www.bai.gov.ph @bai.gov.ph

### III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. **Animal Welfare** refers to the physical and psychological well-being of an animal. It includes but is not limited to the avoidance of abuse, maltreatment, cruelty and exploitation of animals by humans by (a) maintaining appropriate standards of accommodation, feeding and general care; (b) prevention and treatment of disease; and (c) the assurance of freedom from fear, distress, harassment and unnecessary discomfort and pain and allowing animals to express normal behavior.
2. **Rabies** refers to a highly fatal disease caused by a Lyssavirus transmitted mainly through the bite of an infected animal and is characterized by muscle paralysis, hydrophobia and acrophobia and other neurological manifestations.
3. **National Rabies Prevention and Control Program (NRPCP)** shall be a multi-agency effort in controlling and eliminating Rabies in the country. Among the component activities include: (a) mass vaccination of dogs; (b) establishment of a central database system for registered and vaccinated dogs; (c) impounding, field control and disposition of unregistered, stray and unvaccinated dogs; (d) conduct of information and education campaign on the prevention and control of rabies; (e) provision of pre-exposure treatment to high risk personnel and post exposure treatment to animal bite victims; (f) provision of free routine immunization or Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to school children aged five (5) to fourteen (14) in areas where there is high incidence of rabies; and (g) encourage of practice of responsible pet ownership (RPO). The execution of the component activities shall be in accordance to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007 relative to the mandate of the agency.
4. **Regional Program Managers (RPMs)** refers to the personnel of the DA Regional Field Offices (RFOs) designated to implement the program at their respective regions. A Special Order (SO) shall be regularly issued to update the list of the RPMs authorized to perform the required tasks as indicated in the SO.

### IV. PROGRAM COMPONENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Animal Welfare Program pursuant to the provisions of RA 8485 as amended and RA 9482 shall be composed of:

1. Regulation through the issuance of (a) LTO to Animal Facilities; (b) Clearances for Animal Event and Animal Research; and (c) Registration to Animal Event Organizers and Veterinarians;
2. Lead in the implementation of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program (NRPCP);
3. Conduct orientation and capacity building to law enforcement, local government units (LGUs) and regional program managers in the DA Regional Field Offices; and
4. Conduct Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) on both Animal Welfare and Rabies.



"Our organization is certified according to ISO 9001"

*Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya*



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY**  
5 Visayas Avenue, Barangay Vasra, Quezon City 1128

(+632)8528-2240 director@bai.gov.ph www.bai.gov.ph @bai.gov.ph

The Office of the Director through the Animal Health and Welfare Division (AHWD) of the DA-BAI shall spearhead the implementation of the program. A Project Management Office shall be created with the Animal Welfare Unit (AWU) Head as the Project Coordinator and shall be responsible for the following:

1. Lead overall national implementation and management of the program;
2. Prepare all necessary requirements for the appropriate use of the fund;
3. Collate reports and data for analysis for use in policy making and development;
4. Provide technical assistance and guidance to the regional program management teams; and
5. Perform all necessary tasks in the implementation of the program.


The RPMs by virtue of designation through the issuance of a Special Order (SO) shall be responsible for the following in addition to those specified in the SO:

1. Lead in the regional implementation and management of the program;
2. Prepare reports as required by the BAI-AHWD;
3. Provide technical assistance to the LGUs in their region; and
4. Perform all necessary tasks in the implementation of the program.

## V. EFFECTIVITY

This memorandum circular shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force unless revoked in writing. All orders, memoranda and issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 31<sup>st</sup> day of JANUARY 2025.

  
**DIOSAMIA M. SEVILLA, MSc**  
Officer-in-Charge, Director



"Our organization is certified  
according to ISO 9001"

*Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya*