

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4311

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines stands out as East Asia's biggest dog owner, with six times the per-capita number of pets seen in China which is the biggest country in the said part of the continent. Statistics from 2009 shows that in the Philippines, there is one pet dog for every 8 people. This number continuously rises as remittances from migrant workers steadily increases thereby boosting disposable income that affords pet spending.

The number of Filipino pet owners is growing significantly each year. There is now close to 9 million households across the country with at least one dog. Clearly, pet dogs are becoming part of the Filipino family. Considering the foregoing, it is just proper to start launching and/or supporting campaigns that aim to protect the welfare of our pets, more particularly the canines.

Filipinos love the malls. The public, especially those who reside in urbanized cities would frequent shopping malls for many different reasons. A lot of these shoppers do own a pet. However, because of lack of facilities for their dogs, it is quite inconvenient to bring these animals with them although they badly want to.

Pet dogs serve good purpose to their masters and there are more than acceptable reasons and justifications why pet owners would want to bring them around anywhere they go. For one, dogs

are a good company and they are considered a man's best friend especially for the elderly and the blind. Second, pet dogs bring joy and fun to the family and to other people. Lastly, pet dogs are now being considered members of the family here in our country so it is just natural for pet owners to want their pets to be present in whatever endeavor or activity they try to do.

Considering that going to the malls is one of the most common activities of Filipinos, it is but proper to mandate the management of these shopping malls to provide a facility that would temporarily look after and protect the welfare of domesticated dogs when the pet owners need to go for a little shopping in the said mall. After all, if pet dogs are being considered as man's best friend or even a member of a family, we should allow their owners to have the option to bring with them their pet dogs wherever they go to the malls instead of just leaving them in their homes.

This bill seeks to mandate shopping malls to establish at least one dog station therein for the abovementioned purpose. This bill is reflective of our government's support to pro-animal campaigns and projects. Filipinos being natural pet lovers would surely benefit from the approval of this bill. It is for this reason that its approval is hereby being sought.



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**AN ACT REQUIRING EVERY SHOPPING MALL SITUATED
AT URBANIZED CITIES IN THE COUNTRY
TO PROVIDE FOR A DOG STATION**

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*Dog Stations in Shopping Malls Act*".

SECTION 2. *Coverage.* This Act shall apply to all shopping malls situated at urbanized cities nationwide.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Dog Stations in Existing Shopping Malls.* Every shopping mall, regardless of size and income, which are situated at urbanized cities in the country shall be required to provide and/or establish at least one dog station where the shoppers and/or the public going to the said malls can leave their pet dogs as they roam the mall premises.

SECTION 4. *Establishment of Dog Stations in Shopping Malls Yet to be Constructed.* A plan for the construction of shopping malls in urbanized cities in the country shall include a provision for at least one dog station. Failure to include the same in the construction plan shall call for the disapproval of the permit to build said mall.

SECTION 5. *Personnel.* The management of the shopping mall shall be in charge of hiring qualified personnel to man the dog station and oversee the welfare of the said canine pets.

SECTION 6. *Charges.* The management may collect reasonable fees or charges from pet owners who wish to leave their dogs in the said dog station. The facilities, the area size, the number of hours the canines shall be confined in the station, and the quality and variety of services offered by the dog station may be factored in when pegging the amount to be collected by the management from the pet owners.

SECTION 7. *Implementing guidelines* - The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the Department of Health (DOH) shall issue the implementing guidelines for the enforcement of this Act.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - In the event that any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.