

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND AWARENESS OF ANIMAL WELFARE ACT (RA 10631) IN SELECTED BARANGAYS OF DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in selected barangays of Dasmariñas City, Cavite, namely, Paliparan III, Salawag, Sabang, Salitran III, San Agustin I. It focused on the effectiveness of the programs/projects/activities carried out by the city government and barangay officials under RA 10631 and awareness of the resident pet owners on implementing the revised law, the problems barangay officials encountered, and their corresponding solutions and recommendations. The study involved a total of 106 participants: one city government official; one official in each of the five selected barangays involved in projects/programs/strategies related to animal welfare, and 100 selected resident pet owners, who were chosen through homogeneous purposive sampling. In this study, a qualitative-quantitative approach was used. The data gathered were from the in-depth interview conducted and from the survey results that were computed and analyzed using net percentages. Findings revealed that the level of effectiveness of the programs/projects/activities as perceived by the selected resident pet owners regarding the implementation of the revised Animal Welfare Act of 1998 was high, which consequently implies that the resident pet owners have a high level of awareness of the implementation of RA 10631 ensuring the welfare of each animal in the respective barangays. The result further shows that they are knowledgeable about the scope and limitations of the law and the protection and maintenance of the welfare of animals under their care. Additionally, the result manifests that the resident pet owners, the city veterinarian, and the barangay officials are knowledgeable about addressing the problems faced in the implementation of RA 10631 or in promoting animal welfare in the community, and come up with solutions and recommendations to further tighten the welfare protection of animals in Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Keywords: *Animal welfare, Dasmariñas City, Animal Welfare Act of 1998*

INTRODUCTION

“The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated” (Gandhi, 2014).

Cases of animal cruelty could be committed regardless of the age of the individuals who tend to abuse any animal found in their respective Barangays. Animal cruelty has been defined in the psy-

chological literature as “socially unacceptable behavior that intentionally causes unnecessary pain, suffering, or distress to, and/or the death of, an animal” (Ascione, 1993, p. 228). Animal cruelty is something that is reported in the news daily and dogs and cats seem to be the most abused animals. In fact, as per the city veterinarian office of Dasmariñas City, Cavite, animal cruelty happens to any stray animals such as dogs, cats, pigs,

fowls, cows, horses, and other animals. They are usually unrestrained or not under the complete control of the owner or the one in possession thereof. As a result, these animals freely roam the streets, both in public and private places. With the foregoing, the most observable common types of animal cruelty include neglect, hoarding, torture, murder, beating, shooting, dismantling, stabbing, burning while alive, and even the destruction of the habitat of these animals. These commissions are either deliberate or simply the failure to take care of an animal. People with emotional problems may beat, shoot, or stab animals or even set them on fire. Moreover, those who abuse animals are likely to be violent to other people or their own families. Neglect, on the other hand, is the failure to provide the animal with adequate water, food, shelter, or necessary care. Most people abuse, maltreat, or hurt animals because they do not realize that animals must be protected too. Some people intentionally hurt animals because they enjoy doing it, or because it makes them feel powerful. Many of these people would hurt other people if they could get away with it. Thus, they just choose to hurt animals because animals are vulnerable and helpless compared to people (Lee, 2022), not realizing that animals have important roles in balancing the ecosystem (Hussain, 2021). The point is, just like humans, animal welfare has to be addressed to allow them to live peacefully within society. Based on Section 1 of Republic Act No.10631, the purpose of this act is to protect and promote the welfare, the physical, and psychological well-being of all terrestrial, aquatic, and marine animals in the Philippines; it includes but not limited to, the avoidance of abuse, maltreatment, cruelty, and exploitation of animals by humans by maintaining appropriate standards of accommodation, feeding and general care, the prevention and treatment of disease and the assurance of freedom from fear, distress, harassment, and unnecessary discomfort and pain, and allowing animals to express normally. The act is to make sure that the welfare of these animals is considered and protected. The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) believes that the creation of a more peaceful society starts with the widening of mankind's circle of compassion which includes animals, thereby envisions a nation that respects

animals, responsible pet ownership practices, and wildlife projects.

The study focused on the effectiveness and awareness of R.A. No.10631 due to cases and complaints of animal cruelty that need immediate attention. In connection, PAWS has monitored more than a hundred cases of animal cruelty in the country a year, many of which are ignored due to the lack of stiff penalties against animal abuse. The organization receives an average of 40 calls on cases of animal abuse daily. Additionally, Dasmariñas City, Cavite has been identified to be one of the most active cities in the implementation of animal welfare.

Objectives of the Study

This study aimed to determine the level of effectiveness and awareness among the participants of the implemented Republic Act 10631 known to protect the welfare of animals in the selected barangays of Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Specifically, it attempted to :

1. Determine the effectiveness level of the implementation of the Republic Act No.10631 in terms of:
 - a. Impounding of stray animals
 - b. Anti-rabies vaccination program
 - c. Humane education seminar about Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO);
2. Determine the awareness level of selected resident pet owners on the implementation of the Republic Act No.10631;
3. Identify the problems encountered by the barangay officials in the implementation; and
4. Identify the solutions or recommendations of the barangay officials to address the identified problems.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design



This study utilized both qualitative and quantitative research methods utilizing an in-depth interview and survey to gather data. Qualitative approach was used to provide answers on how effective the implementation to protect animal welfare among the selected city government official, barangay officials, and residents to find out what programs/projects are carried out with the best output. Quantitative approach, on the other hand, was utilized to identify problems encountered by barangay officials in the implementation of the act and come up with solutions and recommendations. It also included awareness of the programs/projects/activities of the resident pet owners and the actual implementation of such Act.

Participants of the Study

The total number of participants was 106. Twenty (20) selected residents and one (1) barangay official from each selected barangay, namely: Paliparan III, Salawag, Sabang, Salitran III, and San Agustin, and one (1) city government official were purposively chosen. All in all, there were 100 selected residents, specifically those who have been pet owners for four (4) years who participated in the survey. However, farm animal owners were not included as participants.

Sampling Technique

The researchers used purposive sampling technique to comply with one (1) selected city government official particularly a member of the City Animal Welfare Office, one (1) barangay official in each selected barangay who oversees animal welfare in the community and who has been assigned or involved in projects/programs/strategies related to animal welfare, and twenty (20) selected residents from each barangay involved in the study specifically pet owners for almost four (4) years or anyone who takes care of the common household animals such as cats, dogs, etc. for almost four (4) years.

Research Instrument

The study used a self-administered questionnaire subjected to content validity and reliability. It is

composed of three parts. The first part (Part I) of the questionnaire was used to identify the demographic profile of participants from the municipality of Dasmariñas City, Cavite with considered preferences in terms of their name, address, age, and sex.

The second part (Part II) is a set of questions that helped determine how effective the programs/projects/strategies used by the selected barangays in implementing Republic Act 10631.

The third part (Part III) is a set of questions that helped determine the level of awareness of the respondents about the instances of animal cruelty with household pets. Questions to identify the problems encountered by the participants relative to the implemented Animal Welfare Act and their solutions and recommendations to enhance the welfare of animals in their respective communities were also included.

Ethical Considerations

Before the conduct of the study, certain ethical standards were considered. Approval letters to conduct interviews were sought and affixed to the survey questionnaire. Information about R.A. 10170 known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012, were discussed to the participants and all information collected during data gathering was kept confidential and solely used for research purposes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of Effectiveness of Implemented Animal Welfare Programs/Projects/Activities as Perceived by Selected Resident Pet Owners

Table 1 shows the level of effectiveness of implemented animal welfare programs/projects/activities as perceived by selected resident pet owners of Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Based on the results, the level of effectiveness in terms of animal impounding had a verbal interpretation of *excellent* with a value of 70 percent net effectiveness rating. It showed that they were highly aware of the impounding facilities and han-

dling procedures of the barangay officials. However, the respondents moderately perceived that the impounded animals were treated with care, at a 27 percent net effectiveness rating, while 16 percent of the participants perceived that the municipality has a proper and comfortable shelter and provision of food for the impounded animals, and 37percent perceived that the barangay officials prosecute persons who slaughter animals

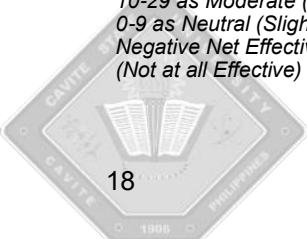
that are not approved based on RA 10631. In addition, the level of effectiveness of animal impounding conducted in each of the (5) five selected barangays had a verbal interpretation of *good* with 34.20 percent net effectiveness rating.

Table 1. Net effectiveness rating of the implementation of impounding animals as perceived by selected resident pet owners

INDICATOR	NET EFFECTIVENESS RATING	INTERPRETATION
Impounding of Stray Animals		
1. Awareness of the impounding of stray animals done by the barangay Officials. (<i>Antas ng iyong kaalaman patungkol sa panghuhuli ng mga galang hayop na isinasagawa ng mga barangay officials.</i>)	75.00%	Excellent
2. Barangay officials treat the impounded animals with care. (<i>Tinatrato ng mga barangay officials nang maayos ang mga nahuling hayop.</i>)	27.00%	Moderate
3. The municipality provides proper and comfortable shelter for the impounded animals. (<i>May maayos na kulungan para sa mga nahuling hayop ang manusipyo.</i>)	16.00%	Moderate
4. The Municipality provides the impounded animals with adequate food. (<i>Binibigyan ng munisipyo ng sapat na pagkain ang mga nahuling hayop.</i>)	16.00%	Moderate
5. The barangay officials would prosecute persons who slaughter animals that are not approved include cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, carabaos, and horses. (<i>Nanghuhuli ang mga barangay officials ng mga hayop na hindi aprubado ng RA 10631; ang mga pwede lang katayin ay baka, baboy, kambing, tupa, manok, kuneho, kalabaw at kabayo.</i>)	37.00%	Good
TOTAL	34.20%	GOOD

Legend:

- 70+ as Excellent (Extremely Effective)
- 50-69 as Very Good (Very Effective)
- 30-49 as Good (Effective)
- 10-29 as Moderate (Moderately Effective)
- 0-9 as Neutral (Slightly Effective)
- Negative Net Effectiveness Rating indicates Ineffective (Not at all Effective)



The respondents indicated that the implementation of the law was *good* or *effective*, with a net percentage score of 34.20 percent. This means that participants are knowledgeable of the existence of an impounding facility in their respective municipality being as rated *excellent*. This also goes to show that they know the purpose of the provision as to its program, and the strategy to uphold the welfare of animals.

In this case, most respondents are aware of animal impounding being carried out in their respective barangays and city. Meanwhile, when it comes to the treatment of impounded animals with care by barangay officials, providing proper and comfortable shelter, and adequate food, all got a *moderate* effectiveness rating. It means that the impounded animals at the barangay level are treated fairly with adequate food and shelter in accordance with the existing provision but with little limitation due to limited resources to carry out the program more effectively. On the other hand, the lowest item with a *good* rating is the prosecution of violators of the provision. This means that very few were held accountable for mishandling pets or animals in their community. This shows that enforcement of the provision is moderately effective. This could be due to the complacency to enforce the law or over familiarity among community residents that could lead to ignoring any mishandling or abuse of pets or animals in the area. Another rea-

son could be their knowledge of the procedure for handling such cases. Nonetheless, overall results suggest that animal welfare in the locale is being addressed in a considerable manner.

Hence, results coincide with the World Pet Association (WPA) agreeing that animal shelters or impounding play a vital role in keeping pets and cities safe, educating the public, and providing much-needed resources for cities dealing with pet overpopulation.

Meanwhile, Table 2 shows the level of effectiveness of programs/projects/activities specifically regarding the humane education seminar about responsible pet ownership (RPO). Based on the data gathered, 31 percent (*good*) of the selected participants were highly aware of humane education seminars about responsible pet ownership in five selected barangays, and moderately participated in humane seminars (16%), while 19 percent (at moderate interpretation) of barangay officials were good in sharing information about responsible pet ownership from the speakers of the humane education seminar. However, 46 percent believed that they were aware of discussions about responsible pet ownership from the speakers of the humane education seminar. Overall, the level of effectiveness of the participants had a verbal interpretation of moderate with 28 percent net effectiveness rating.

Table 2. Net effectiveness of animal welfare implementation in terms of humane education seminar about Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO)

INDICATOR	NET EFFECTIVENESS RATING	INTERPRETATION
1. Aware of humane education seminars about responsible pet ownership in your barangay. (<i>May kaalaman tungkol sa makataong seminar sa edukasyon tungkol sa responsableng pagmamay-ari ng alagang hayop sa inyong barangay.</i>)	31.00%	Good
2. Level of your participation in the humane educational seminar about responsible pet ownership in your barangay. (<i>Antas ng pakikilahok sa makataong seminar sa edukasyon tungkol sa responsableng pagmamay-ari ng alagang hayop sa iyong barangay.</i>)	16.00%	Moderate

Table 2. Continued

INDICATOR	NET EFFECTIVENESS RATING	INTERPRETATION
3. Barangay officials are good at sharing information with residents about having humane education seminars in the barangay. (<i>Ang mga opisyal ng barangay ay mahusay magbahagi ng impormasyon sa mga residente tungkol sa pagkakaroon ng seminar sa makataong edukasyon.</i>)	19.00%	Moderate
4. The level of your awareness in discussions of information about responsible pet ownership from the speakers of the Humane Education seminar. (<i>Antas ng iyong kamalayan sa diskusyon tungkol sa responsableng pagmamay-ari ng alagang hayop mula sa mga tagapagsalita.</i>)	46.00%	Good
TOTAL	28.00%	Moderate

Legend:

70+ as Excellent (Extremely Effective)

50-69 as Very Good (Very Effective)

30-49 as Good (Effective)

10-29 as Moderate (Moderately Effective)

0-9 as Neutral (Slightly Effective)

Negative Net Effectiveness Rating indicates Ineffective (Not at all Effective)

Based on the findings, the pet owners' belief that their awareness of the effectiveness of humane education seminars about responsible pet ownership in their barangay (31%) and the discussions of information about responsible pet ownership from the speakers of the humane education seminar (46%) was interpreted as both good. Meanwhile, their level of participation in the humane educational seminar about responsible pet ownership (16%) and the barangay officials being good at sharing information with the residents about having humane education seminars in the barangay (19%) were interpreted as moderate only. Therefore, it was found moderately effective for there are still problems arising on the implementation that are not fully addressed and yet to be resolved by the officials, and these need to be discussed in more engaging and interactive humane seminars.

Overall, the responses of the participants were *moderate* or *moderately effective*, with a net percentage score of 28, meaning the effectiveness of the animal welfare program in terms of the hu-

mane education seminar about responsible pet ownership has affected moderately the pet owners in protecting their pet against undue harm or abuse which could be attributed to their failure to attend seminars. It could also be that other contents of the seminar were not fully understood, and/or other topics in the seminar were not totally implemented or internalized.

In connection, with the Humane Education, PAWS continues to work with Local Government Units in the Philippines in providing Humane Education and Responsible Pet Ownership Seminars to communities. PAWS also conducts different educational programs to promote humane education for students. These include school tours and visits, student interviews, and lectures. PAWS Humane Education lectures include safety around animals, responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and proper management of animal control facilities among other things (PAWS.org.ph, 2020).

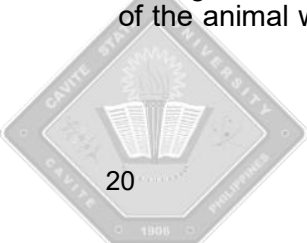


Table 3. Overall net effectiveness rating of the implementation of RA No. 10631 as perceived by selected resident-pet owners

OVERALL	38.49%	GOOD
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Overall, the level of effectiveness of the programs/projects/activities as perceived by the selected resident pet owners regarding the implementation of R.A. 10631 was *good* with a net effectiveness rating of 38.49 percent. This means that they know the law as being effective only; they know enough about the purpose of each project, program, and strategy under the R.A. no.10631, and it adequately addresses and solves the problems faced by the officials involved in the implementation of such law.

In this case, it shows that Animal Impounding and Humane Educational Seminar for Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) were conducted effectively for the welfare of animals. It also shows that officials were able to encourage the participation of resident pet owners in such programs/projects/activities that provide resolution to the problems encountered by officials in the implementation of R.A. 10631.

Level of Awareness of Selected Resident Pet Owners on the Implementation of RA 10631

Table 4 shows the level of awareness or the net awareness rating of the selected resident pet owners regarding RA 10631. Based on the data gathered, the level of awareness of the participants had a verbal interpretation of *excellent* with 87 percent Net Awareness Rating. It showed that they were highly aware of RA 10631. Also, they were very much aware that killing animals except

cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, pet chickens, buffalo, and horses is against the law, with the verbal interpretation of *excellent* with the value of 81 percent net awareness rating. Moreover, the respondents were moderately aware of the length of stay of impounded pets or stray animals in the animal coral at a 21 percent Net Effectiveness rating, while 2 percent were neutral on the awareness of euthanizing the unclaimed impounded pets/stray animals within a week. They were also moderately aware of the spaying and neutering of pets or animals conducted by the city vet at a 22 percent net awareness rating. Meanwhile, it showed that the participants are aware enough that it is necessary to have their pets register at the city with a verbal interpretation of *good* and at a value of 43 percent net awareness rating. This study also shows that the pet owners of Dasmariñas City are highly aware that vaccination is a must, at 85 percent net awareness rating, and abandonment at 74 percent net awareness rating, and experimentation without permits of dogs and cats is against the law, at 78 percent net awareness rating. The last three questions had an *excellent* verbal interpretation.

Overall, the level of awareness of the participants regarding the implementation of RA 10631 had a *very good* verbal interpretation with a net awareness rating of 54.78 percent.

Table 4. Level of awareness of the participants on the implementation of RA 10631 or The Animal Welfare Act of 1998

INDICATOR	NET AWARENESS RATING	INTERPRETATION
1. How aware are you that there is a law which is the R.A. 10631 or Animal Welfare Act that protects the rights of animals? <i>(Gaano kataas ang iyong kamalayan na mayroong batas na R.A. 10631 o Animal Welfare Act of 1998 na pumoprotekta sa karapatan ng mga hayop?)</i>	87.00%	Excellent
2. How aware are you that killing of animals except cow, pig, goat, sheep, pet chickens, buffalo, horse is against the law? <i>(Gaano mo kabatid na nag pagpatay sa lahat ng uri ng mga hayop maliban sa baka, baboy, kambing, tupa, alagang manok, kalabaw, kabayo, ay labag sa batas?)</i>	81.00%	Excellent
3. How aware are you regarding the lengths of stay of impounded pets or stray animals in the animal coral? <i>(Gaano mo kabatid ang haba ng pananatili ng mga nahuling mga alaga o galang hayop sa koral?)</i>	21.00%	Moderate
4. How aware are you of euthanizing the unclaimed of the impounded pets/stray animals within a week? <i>(Gaano mo kabatid na ang mga nahuling alaga at galang hayop ay sa-sailalim sa euthanasia kapag ito ay hindi kinuha o inabandona nang tuluyan sa loob ng isang linggo?)</i>	2.00%	Neutral
5. How aware are you regarding the spraying and neutering programs conducted by the city veterinary office in your area? <i>(Gaano mo kabatid na mayroong isinasagawang pagkakapon ang opisina na beteryaryong panlungsod sa inyong lugar?)</i>	22.00%	Moderate
6. How aware are you that it is necessary to register your household pets to the city veterinarian office? <i>(Gaano mo kabatid na kailangang irehistro ang mga alagang hayop sa city veterinarian's office?)</i>	43.00%	Good

Overall, the respondents were very good or very aware, with a net percentage score of 54.33 percent. This means they know the act; they almost master its entirety and, somehow, read or scanned the provisions, and know the purpose of the implementation of R.A. 10631.

As a result, resident pet owners are extremely aware that R.A. 10631 protects the welfare of animals, such as killing animals except cows, pigs, goats, sheep, pet chickens, buffalo, and horses is against the law but only a few were aware of euthanizing the unclaimed impounded pets/stray animals within a week. When it comes to awareness of spaying and neutering of animals, the respondents had a moderate awareness because the pet owners believed that having their pets vaccinated is enough already. Also, almost the majority were highly aware that there is a necessity to register their household pets after vaccination. This means that the respondents were highly knowledgeable that it is against the law to abandon animals under their custody, and that any form of abuse to animals is strictly prohibited, such as experimentation or use for research without permission from the Animal Welfare Committee.

In relation, the HSUS, or the Humane Society of the United States, has long led the movement for sturdier animal cruelty laws and provides training for law officials to detect and prosecute these crimes. With South Dakota joining the fight in March of 2014, animal cruelty laws now include felony provisions in all 50 states. This organization can be compared to the Philippine Animal Welfare Society or PAWS, but the latter lacks funds and volunteers since it is not funded by the government. They have only continued to operate with donations. Even if they also wanted to conduct regular training and seminars all around the country for better awareness, their limited amount of money would not be enough. This would still be covered by donations, if possible.

The Philippine law, recognizing the great importance of animals for humans, is focused on the protection and promotion of the welfare of animals used for breeding, maintaining, keeping, treating, or training all animals as objects of trade

or household pets. Regardless of which concept one adheres to, the promotion and protection of the welfare of animals is a paramount consideration for both welfarists and the rightists. As an animal welfare organization, Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF) is focused on the same concept that animals have feelings too, and thus, they need to be protected from any form of cruelty, maltreatment, and abuse. Hence, its campaigns are directed at the reduction of animal cruelty, animal welfare promotion, and awareness, including legislation. The current laws may not be enough yet to cover the field of animal protection. Nevertheless, it suffices to inculcate animal welfare in every Filipino citizen provided strict implementation is made by both the government and the NGO partners in the spread of animal welfare education. As humans increasingly realize the significant contribution and importance of animals in daily life and their impact on the ecosystem, there is a need to ensure that humans recognize their responsibility to care for and protect the welfare and needs of the animals through humane cohabitation.

Problems Encountered by the Barangay Officials in the Implementation of the Animal Welfare Act and the Corresponding Solutions They Make

Based on the information gathered from the in-depth interview conducted in the five selected barangays, it was found that they encountered problems in the implementation of the following programs/projects/activities: animal impounding - negligence of pet owner.

The city veterinarian and barangay officials had a problem with the participation of some residents. Although there is a law to impound stray animals, they shared that there are instances where they neglect their pet and allow the animals to roam in public and private places, affecting people in the community such as non-pet owners, as well as the environment. Here, the littering of stray animals and the scattering of animal waste become a problem resulting in air pollution and stench of the environment.

According to the Philippine Animal Welfare Soci-

ety, scrawny cats sleeping on rubbish piles and mange-ridden dogs limping along the street are common sights in the Philippines. Twelve million stray cats and dogs roamed the nation in 2019. Each year, many animals are euthanized in pounds or die of disease, hunger, or wounds resulting from fighting.

Facility for Impounded Stray Animals

It has been included in the mandate of the city veterinarian office to impound stray animals since the COVID-19 pandemic and at the same time, relocate the animal corral or impounding center for stray animals in 2017. The reason why the city veterinary office stopped impounding stray animals but transferred the authority to impound stray animals at the barangay levels was to ensure that there would be enough shelter, food, and water for the stray animals to be impounded.

Limited Seminars on Responsible Pet Ownership

According to the barangay officials, although there is this type of humane educational seminar for responsible pet ownership, some of the resident pet owners prefer not to attend due to busy schedules. If there are only a few attendees, they also see the city's failure to conduct flexible communication, such as online seminars for those who cannot attend on time.

Like the Anti-Rabies Vaccination, the Humane Educational Seminar for Responsible Pet Ownership is being conducted so that more people could attend. Before vaccination of pets such as dogs and cats in community drives, they provide simple information regarding being responsible pet owners. They also provide information, education, and communication (IEC) materials such as pamphlets and posters that contain information on how to avoid and manage biting incidents of household pets and stray animals such as dogs and cats.

Solutions/Recommendations of the Barangay Officials to the Problems Encountered by Resident Pet owners

Animal Impounding

To solve the problem of the growing number of stray animals, the Dasmariñas City government had constructed a new large impounding center for stray animals with adequate food, water, and care, located at Langkaan 2, Dasmariñas City, Cavite with the plan of conducting centralized hunting of stray animals. The animal corral is to be available for use by the middle of the year 2022, and centralized hunting of stray animals shall also begin.

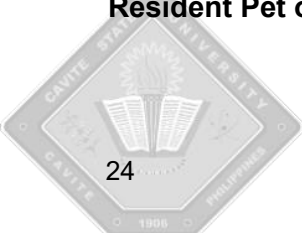
Humane Educational Seminar of Responsible Pet Ownership

The recommendation and solution of the barangay officials to make the Humane Educational Seminar for Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) more effective is to further intensify the conduct of such seminars in Dasmariñas City, through flexible communication, such as online seminars regarding responsible pet ownership. There are also additional information on education communication such as the distribution of tarpaulins, posters, leaflets, infographics, audio spots for radio, and social media posts containing information regarding responsible pet ownership in each barangay. Social media platforms that promote information regarding responsible pet ownership are likewise utilized. This way, resident pet owners would become more aware of animal welfare and animal cruelty would be avoided.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were formulated:

Pet owners of Dasmariñas City, Cavite determined how effective the programs/projects/activities are under the implementation of Republic Act No.10631 as perceived by the city government, barangay officials, and pet owners. Overall net effectiveness rating results show that pet owners are knowledgeable enough and believe that the programs/projects/activities carried out under Republic Act No.10631 are effective. They also devote ample time to understand the process and system in each program/project/activity.



It was also determined that the level of awareness of pet owners regarding the implementation of RA 10631 is high. They devote themselves ample time to read and understand the provisions, meaning they know the scope and limitations of the law, as well as their responsibilities as citizens on how to protect and maintain the lives of non-human animals.

On the level of awareness in the enforcement of RA 10631, respondents clearly know of the provisions of or protecting the welfare of animals against abuse, experimentation, maltreatment, abandonment, neglect of animals, and killing of animals not permitted under the enforcement of RA 10631. Although barangay officials have encountered problems regarding programs/projects/activities in the implementation of the Act, it serves as a way for them to come up with solutions and recommendations to further strengthen the implementation of such law.

Finally, the results showed that the resident pet owners and the city veterinarian as well as the barangay officials are knowledgeable enough to address the problems faced in the implementation of RA 10631 and come up with solutions and recommendations to further tighten the protection of all animals in Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusions, the following points are recommended:

1. City and barangay governments may intensify the conduct of educational seminars for responsible animal care among residents. In this way, awareness regarding the prevention of animal cruelty can further expand the knowledge of residents regarding projects, programs, and activities in RA 10631. Considering that neglect of animals can be closely linked to domestic violence, animal abuse and domestic abuse are often closely connected.
2. This research could be provided to other municipalities/cities to further intensify programs, projects, and strategies such as animal impound-

ing, anti-rabies vaccination, and humane educational seminars for Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO).

3. The city governance for Veterinary Services could strengthen its active campaign against animal cruelty.

4. The same agency with barangay support could enhance capacity and ability in collaboration with the public health services, municipalities, and local communities with appropriate financial support to eliminate abuse of animals in any form.

5. Emphasizing the use of social media and IEC materials by each barangay in expanding the dissemination of information regarding projects, programs, and activities under RA 10631 could capacitate effective sharing of modern technology in the implementation of RA 10631.

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