ESTABLISHING MUNICIPAL RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM
OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALIWAG, BULACAN

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9482, the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007, declared as a state policy the protection and promotion of the people’s right to health. Thus, the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program, a system for the control, prevention of the spreading, and eventual eradication of human and animal rabies was established.

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan, in synergy with selected government agencies, was tasked to implement a local version of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program.

WHEREAS, there is an unprecedented increase in the number of reported unvaccinated dog bites at the Municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan.

WHEREAS, there is also need to promote responsible pet ownership in the Municipality.

NOW THEREFORE, by the power vested upon me by law, I FERDINAND V. ESTRELLA do hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. Municipal Rabies Prevention and Control Program. There shall be a Municipal Rabies Prevention and Control Program (MRPCP) at the Municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan which shall be spearheaded by Municipal Agriculture Office, Municipal Health Office and the Baliwag Polytechnic College as focal offices. With this program, the Municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan shall:

(a) Ensure that all dogs in the Municipality are properly immunized, registered and issued corresponding dog tags.

(b) Strictly enforce dog impounding activities and field control to solve the problem of stray dogs.

(c) Ensure that dogs are tied or confined within the premises of the owner’s house or owner’s fenced premises.

(d) Allocate funds for the implementation of the Municipal Rabies Prevention and Control Program.

(e) Enact ordinances that will support the Rabies Prevention and Control Programs of the Municipality and the State.

(f) Prohibit the trade of dogs for meat.

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(g) Establish and maintain a dog pound where impounded dogs shall be kept.

(h) Prohibit the use of electrocution of dogs as a euthanasia procedure.

(i) Appoint a municipal veterinarian and establish a veterinary office.

(j) Require pet shops and educational institutions to post information materials on rabies and responsible pet ownership.

SECTION 2. Creation of the Baliwag Rabies Prevention and Control Council. There shall be created Baliwag Rabies Prevention and Control Council (BRPCC) with the Municipal Mayor as Honorary Chairman. The Council shall lead in the formulation of policies and guidelines on all matters pertaining to rabies prevention and control measures. The BRPCC shall have be composed of:

(a) Municipal Mayor – Honorary Chair
(b) Municipal Agriculture Office – Chair
(c) Municipal Health Officer – Co-chair
(d) Municipal Administrator - Member
(e) The Department of Education Division Supervisors - Members
(f) The President, Association of Barangay Councils (ABC) - Member
(g) The PNP Station Commander - Member
(h) The Municipal Legal Officer - Member
(i) The President, Baliwag Polytechnic College - Member
(j) The Municipal Veterinarian - Member
(h) The Community Affairs Officer - Member

The BRPCC shall meet every first Thursday of the quarter and shall submit to the Office of the Municipal Mayor an annual report on the accomplishments, progress and needs of the program.

SECTION 3. The Focal Offices. The Municipal Agriculture Office, Municipal Health Office and Baliwag Polytechnic College shall jointly implement the Municipal Rabies Prevention and Control Programs. Their respective tasks are spelled out as follows:

A. Municipal Agriculture Office

(a) Advocate for the establishment of animal rabies laboratory and diagnostic capabilities to ensure these services to the people of Baliwag, Bulacan.

(b) Ensure the availability and adequate supply of animal anti-rabies vaccines at all times.

(c) Undertake free anti-rabies vaccination of dogs in the Municipality.

(d) Maintain and improve animal rabies surveillance system.

(e) Establish and maintain “rabies free zone” in the Municipality.

(f) Strengthen the training of field personnel and the information education and communication activities on rabies prevention and control and responsible pet ownership.

(g) Encourage synergies with other government agencies, units and other concerned sectors.
B. Municipal Health Office

(a) Advocate for the establishment animal bite treatment centers and ensure the availability and adequate supply of DOH pre-qualified human anti-rabies vaccine at all times. MHO shall coordinate with other implementing agencies and concerned NGOs for this purpose.

(b) Provide post-exposure treatment at minimum expense to individuals bitten by animals suspected of being infected with rabies.

(c) Provide free pre-exposure treatment to high-risk personnel, such as, but not limited to, laboratory staff, veterinarians, animal handlers, vaccinators and other persons exposed to rabies virus.

(d) Coordinate with the MAO and BTECH in the development of appropriate health education strategy to inform the public on rabies prevention and control and responsible pet ownership.

(e) Develop and maintain a human rabies surveillance system.

(f) Encourage synergies with other government and other concerned sectors.

C. Baliwag Polytechnic College

(a) Advocate for rabies education program through integrating rabies information in relevant courses of its program offerings.

(b) Integrate proper information and education on responsible pet ownership in relevant courses of its program offerings.

(c) Assist in dog mass immunization campaigns of the Municipality.

(d) Encourage collaborative activities on rabies awareness with the Municipality and other concerned sectors.

(e) Conduct research on rabies and its control in coordination with other government agencies.

(f) Conduct community mobilization, mass anti-rabies campaign, information dissemination, surveillance and reporting of rabies cases in animals and humans, and any other activities geared towards the prevention and complete eradication of rabies.

SECTION 4. Responsible Pet Ownership. For the success of the Municipal Rabies Prevention and Control Program, all pet owners shall be required to:
(a) Have their dogs regularly vaccinated against rabies and maintain a registration card which shall contain all vaccinations conducted on their dogs, for accurate record purposes.

(b) Submit their dogs for mandatory registration.

(c) Maintain control over their dog and prevent them from roaming the streets or any public place by themselves.

(d) Be responsible pet owners by providing their dogs with proper grooming, adequate food and clean shelter.

(e) Within twenty-four (24) hours, report immediately any dog biting incident to the Municipal Health Office for investigation or for any appropriate action and place such dog under observation by a government or private veterinarian.

(f) Assist the dog bite victim immediately and shoulder the medical expenses incurred and other incidental expenses relative to the victim’s injuries.

SECTION 5. Dog Protection. It shall likewise be unlawful for any person to torture any dog, to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any dog or to subject any dog to dogfight, kill or cause or procure to be tortured or deprived of adequate care sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or experiments.

SECTION 6. Dog Pounds. Unregistered, stray or unvaccinated dogs shall be placed in dog pounds and disposed of, taking into consideration the following guidelines:

(a) Unregistered, stray or unvaccinated dogs shall be impounded and kept in a designated dog pound in the Municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan.

(b) Impounded dogs not claimed after three days from the dog pound shall be placed for adoption to qualified persons.

(c) A fee shall be assessed by the owners of impounded dogs to the Municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan.

SECTION 7. Dog Population Control. - There is a need to control the dog population and minimize the number of unwanted stray dogs at the Municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan. As such, it is hereby mandated:

(a) That the Municipal Agriculture Office, Municipal Health Office, BTECH, and other concerned entities shall undertake an educational and promotional campaign on responsible pet ownership, including the option of spaying or neutering their dogs.

(b) That the Municipality shall encourage spaying or neutering of dogs by giving a subsidized or discounted pet registration fee.

(c) That dogs which have been impounded three times shall only be released after having been spayed or neutered, at the expense of the pet’s owner.
SECTION 8. **Repealing Clause.** - All executive and administrative orders, or part or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the sections of this order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. **Effectivity.** - This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the community bulletin boards.

Done this 16th day of September, 2016 at the Municipality of Baliwag, Bulacan, Philippines.

\[Signature\]
FERDINAND V. ESTRELLA
Municipal Mayor