

*Pasuguan ng Pilipinas*



*Embassy of the Philippines*

Press Release  
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The Embassy of the Philippines wishes to confirm that Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the Animal Welfare Act of 1998, provides penal sanctions to persons who maltreat animals in the Philippines. The penal sanctions involve an imprisonment term of between 6 months and 2 years and a fine of between one thousand pesos to not more than five thousand pesos.

The practice of some misguided personalities in organizing horse-fighting in the Philippines is clearly prohibited under Section 6 of R.A. No. 8485 which states that: "*It shall be unlawful for any person to torture any animal, to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat any animals or to subject any dog or horse to dogfights or horsefights, x x x.*" In this regard, the Philippine Government has been actively cooperating with all concerned individuals and organizations in subjecting those involved in the maltreatment of animals to criminal prosecution.

The report appearing in Skynews today will certainly be referred by the Embassy to appropriate authorities in the Philippines for investigation. The Philippine Government takes its responsibility of promoting animal welfare seriously as it remains a fact that many Filipinos do care and pamper their pets and animals. **END**