ORDINANCE NO. 25-006 S. 2026

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS TO SECURE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH(DOH) ACCREDITATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SPONSOR	SPM JOSE JONASH LUIS F. TOLENTINO
FIRST READING	RESOLUTION NO. 25-132 S. 2026 APRIL 20,2026
CONCERNED COMMITTEES	CHAIRMAN,COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
COMMITTEE HEARING	MAY 4,2026
COMMITTEE REPORT	RESOLUTION NO. 25-169 S. 2026 MAY 25,2026
SECOND READING / FINAL READING	RESOLUTION NO. 25-176 S. 2026 JUNE 1,2026
DATE ENACTED	06/01/2026
DATE APPROVED	06/16/2026
DATE SUBMITTED TO SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN	06/16/2026 11:40 AM
DATE POSTED	06/16/2026
DATE PUBLISHED	

Lemuel A. Perez
Records Division
6/18/2026 9:04 AM

Republic of the Philippines
BATANGAS CITY
Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod

ORDINANCE NO. 25-006 S. 2026

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS TO SECURE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ACCREDITATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

AUTHOR : SP MEMBER JOSE JONASH LUIS F. TOLENTINO
Chairman, Committee on Health

CO-AUTHOR : SP MEMBER MARIA CLAUDETTE U. AMBIDA

WHEREAS, Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", empowers local government units (LGUs) to exercise their powers and discharge their functions and responsibilities necessary and appropriate for the efficient and effective provision of basic services and facilities, including health services;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2007," mandates the regulation of animal bite treatment facilities and the proper management of rabies prevention and control;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH), pursuant to Republic Act No. 9482 and related issuances, retains primary authority over the accreditation and regulation of Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTCs) and Animal Bite Centers (ABCs), and the City Government of Batangas recognizes such authority and seeks to complement the same through local regulatory measures;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) has issued Administrative Order No. 2013-0004, which provides guidelines for the accreditation of Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTCs) and Animal Bite Centers (ABCs);

WHEREAS, ensuring that all ABTCs and ABCs within the territorial jurisdiction of Batangas City comply with DOH accreditation standards are vital to protect public health and safety, particularly in preventing human rabies infections, reducing fatalities, and promoting responsible animal bite management;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Batangas, through its City Health Office, has the responsibility to regulate the operation of health facilities within its jurisdiction, and to ensure that all licensed animal bite clinics maintain the highest standards of safety, quality, and accessibility of Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) services.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Batangas City, in session duly assembled, that:

SECTION 1. TITLE. - This Ordinance shall be known as the "**Batangas City Animal Bite Treatment Center Regulation Ordinance**".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. - It is hereby declared the policy of the City Government of Batangas to safeguard public health by ensuring that animal bite treatment centers operate in accordance with national standards and provide safe, accessible and effective treatment to victims of animal bites.

HON. ARMANDO E. LAZARTE
HON. SHERWIN C. TEJADA
HON. GERARDO A. DELA ROCA
HON. MACARIO L. MACALALAD
HON. ANDREA F. MACARAIG
HON. MICHAEL C. VILLENA
HON. ARTHUR BART G. BLANCO
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HON. AILEEN GRACE MONTALBO
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HON. CLAUDETTE A. AMBIDA
HON. ZESTER CARLO M. HERNANDEZ
HON. ALYSSA RENEE A. CRUZ
HON. AILIN GRACE O. DIMACUHA
HON. MARIO VITTORIO A. MARIÑO
HON. LORENZO A. GAMBOA JR.
ATTY. OLIVA D. TELEGATOS

Continuation of Ordinance No. 25-006 S. 2026

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS TO SECURE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ACCREDITATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

This Ordinance shall be supplementary to national laws, rules, and regulations, and shall not be construed to amend, modify, or supersede the regulatory authority of the Department of Health over Animal Bite Treatment Centers and Animal Bite Centers.

SECTION 3. COVERAGE. - This Ordinance shall apply to all Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTCs) and Animal Bite Centers (ABCs) applying for a new or renewal of business permit within the territorial jurisdiction of Batangas City.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. - For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms are hereby defined:

4.1 ACCREDITATION. The process by which the DOH Center for Health Development assesses and evaluates an ABTC/ABC facility to determine compliance with standards for quality rabies exposure management.

4.2 ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTER (ABTC). Health facilities providing Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for rabies exposure, under the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program (NRPCP), with rabies vaccines and Rabies Immune Globulin (RIG) provided or augmented by the program.

4.3 ANIMAL BITE CENTER (ABC). Privately owned health facilities providing PEP in accordance with DOH guidelines, but not directly supported by NRPCP with vaccines or RIG.

4.4 CERTIFIED BITE TREATMENT FACILITY. ABTCs or ABCs that have satisfactorily met all criteria under DOH Administrative Order No. 2013-0004.

4.5 POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP). Anti-rabies treatment administered after exposure (bite, scratch, and lick) to potentially rabid animals, including wound care, vaccination, with or without RIG depending on exposure category.

4.6 PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PREP). Rabies vaccination administered prior to potential exposure, usually for high-risk individuals (veterinarians, animal handlers, lab personnel).

4.7 RABIES IMMUNE GLOBULIN (RIG). A medication made of high-titer antibodies (proteins) that neutralize the rabies virus. It is administered to provide passive immunity immediately after a high-risk exposure (like a bite from a rabid animal).

4.8 SELF-ASSESSMENT FORM (SAF). A tool used to assess whether an ABTC/ABC can provide quality PEP services consistent with NRPCP policies.

HON. ARMANDO C. LAZARTE
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HON. ZESTER CARLO M. HERNANDEZ
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Continuation of Ordinance No. 25-006 S. 2026

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS TO SECURE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ACCREDITATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 5. GENERAL GUIDELINES. - In accordance with Republic Act No. 9482 (Anti-Rabies Act of 2007) and DOH Administrative Order No. 2013-0004, no ABTC/ABC shall be issued a business permit unless it presents proof of valid DOH accreditation, recognizing the Department of Health as the primary accrediting authority.

This requirement is pursuant to the City Government's regulatory powers under Section 16 of the Local Government Code (RA 7160) to ensure public health and safety.

5.1. Certification Cycle.

Certification shall comply with DOH Administrative Order No. 2013-0004, and shall follow the four-cycle process, as summarized below:

5.1.1. SELF-ASSESSMENT CYCLE (SAF Completion). The facility shall complete the Self-Assessment Form (SAF) to determine compliance with NRPCP standards, and may request technical assistance from the DOH or the City Health Office.

5.1.2. APPLICATION CYCLE. Submission of the SAF and supporting documentation to the DOH Center for Health Development (CHD) for formal evaluation.

5.1.3. CERTIFICATION CYCLE. DOH shall conduct on-site inspection to verify adequacy of facilities, vaccines, RIG stock, equipment, personnel, and compliance with proper PEP protocols.

5.1.4 REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE CYCLE. Upon satisfactory inspection, the DOH shall issue a Certificate of Compliance valid for **two (2) years**, renewable upon reassessment.

5.2. Minimum Standards.

Certified facilities shall at all times, maintain the following minimum standards:

5.2.1. Adequate stocks of DOH-approved rabies vaccines and RIG, stored according to **Philippine FDA guidelines**.

5.2.2. Functional emergency medical equipment, including a dedicated vaccine refrigerator, uninterrupted power and water supply, and emergency drugs.

5.2.3. Proper management and disposal of biohazardous and medical waste in accordance with **RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000)** and **DOH circulars**.

HON. ARMANDO C. LAZARTE
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AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS TO SECURE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ACCREDITATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

5.2.4. Personnel fully trained and competent in PEP administration, exposure classification, and rabies management protocols, as certified by DOH

5.2.5. Standardized recording, reporting, and two-way referral systems for animal bite incidents, consistent with **National Rabies Prevention and Control Program (NRPCP) requirements.**

5.3. Monitoring and Continuing Compliance.

Accredited facilities shall undergo monitoring at least once a year by the City Health Office or Provincial Health Office, to ensure continued compliance with accreditation standards.

For this purpose, duly authorized personnel of the City Health Office (CHO), upon presentation of proper identification, shall be allowed to conduct inspections during reasonable business hours to verify compliance with applicable standards.

Further, the CHO, in coordination with the Department of Health Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD), shall conduct at least one (1) monitoring visit annually, or as may be deemed necessary, to assess the operational status and level of compliance of such facilities. Such monitoring shall include, but shall not be limited to, evaluation of the following:

5.3.1. Compliance with the standards set under DOH Administrative Order No. 2013-0004 and other relevant issuances of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program (NRPCP).

5.3.2. Availability, proper storage, and handling of rabies vaccines and Rabies Immune Globulin (RIG).

5.3.3. Adequacy of facilities, equipment, and infection control practices.

5.3.4. Competency and continuing training of personnel involved in rabies management and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

5.3.5. Proper recording, reporting, and referral systems for animal bite cases.

The conduct of such monitoring is intended to ensure that accredited facilities continuously comply with the prescribed standards even after the issuance of accreditation, and to safeguard the delivery of safe, effective, and quality rabies prevention services to the public.

SECTION 6. REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESS PERMIT. - No business permit shall be issued or renewed for any ABTC/ABC within Batangas City unless the applicant submits the following:

HON. ARMANDO G. LAZARTE
HON. GERARDO A. DELA ROSA
HON. ANDREA F. MACARAIG
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HON. ZESTER CARLO M. HERNANDEZ
HON. AILIN GRACE O. DIMACUHA
HON. LORENZO A. GAMBOA JR.

Continuation of Ordinance No. 25-006 S. 2026

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS TO SECURE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ACCREDITATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

6.1. A valid DOH accreditation for the facility.

6.2. Trained Physician and Nurse on Management of Animal Bites from DOH recognized training institution.

6.3. Proof of compliance with DOH rabies vaccination and RIG storage requirements.

SECTION 7. FUNDING. - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Ordinance shall be charged against the current appropriations of the City Health Office, subject to usual accounting and auditing rules. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual budget of the City Government.

SECTION 8. DATA PRIVACY. - All personal and health information collected pursuant to this Ordinance shall be processed and protected in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173 and other applicable laws and regulations.

SECTION 9. PROVISIONAL COMPLIANCE PERIOD. - All existing Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTCs) operating within Batangas City without valid DOH accreditation to operate from the Department of Health (DOH) at the time this Ordinance takes effect shall be allowed to continue operations on a provisional basis for **sixty (60)** days only, subject to strict compliance with the following:

9.1. Filing of a complete application for DOH accreditation to operate in accordance with DOH Administrative Order No. 2013-0004 within **fifteen (15)** days from the effectivity of this Ordinance.

9.2. Strict adherence to minimum public health and safety standards as certified by the City Health Office (CHO).

9.3. No expansion of services or facilities during the provisional period.

9.4. Full cooperation with inspections, audits, and monitoring activities conducted by authorized personnel.

Failure to secure DOH accreditation within the provisional period shall result in the automatic cessation of operations and non-renewal or revocation of the business permit, subject to applicable due process requirements.

SECTION 10. PENALTIES. - The imposition of any administrative penalty shall be subject to prior notice and opportunity to be heard, in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Any violation of this Ordinance shall be punishable by:

HON. ARMANDO C. LAZARTE
HON. GERARDO A. DELA ROCA
HON. ANDREA F. MACRAIG
HON. ARTHUR BART G. BLANCO
HON. AILEEN GRACE MONTALBO
HON. CLAUDETTE A. AMBIDA
HON. ALYSSA RENEE A. CRUZ
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ATTY. OLIVA D. TELEGATOS
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Continuation of Ordinance No. 25-006 S. 2026

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS TO SECURE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ACCREDITATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

10.1. FIRST OFFENSE: A fine of Php 2,500.00 and the issuance of a formal Notice of Violation issued by the Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO).

10.2. SECOND OFFENSE: A fine of Php 5,000.00 and immediate recommendation to the Business Permits and Licensing Office BPLO for the suspension of the Business Permit for a period of thirty (30) days.

10.3. THIRD OFFENSE: The permanent revocation of the Business Permit, and the permanent closure of the establishment. The owner or operator shall be blacklisted from applying for health-related permits within Batangas City for a period not exceeding three (3) years, subject to review by the City Health Office.

Each day of continued operation without valid DOH accreditation shall be considered a separate offense.

In cases where continued operation poses an imminent threat to public health, the City Mayor, upon recommendation of the City Health Office, may order the immediate temporary closure of the establishment pending investigation.

SECTION 11. APPEALS. - Any person or entity adversely affected by a decision, order, or penalty imposed under this Ordinance may file an appeal in accordance with applicable laws within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof. Any decision after appeal shall be final and executory, without prejudice to further remedies under applicable laws.

SECTION 12. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. - The City Health Office, in coordination with the DOH-Center for Health Development, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Ordinance within 90 days from its effectivity.

SECTION 13. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If, for any reason, any provision, section, or part of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions, which shall continue to be in full force and effect.

HON. ARMANDO C. LAZARTE
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Continuation of Ordinance No. 25-006 S. 2026

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS TO SECURE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ACCREDITATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All ordinances, resolutions, executive issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, whether issued by the City Government of Batangas or any of its instrumentalities, which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY. - This Ordinance shall take effect upon approval by the City Mayor and fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation within Batangas City, and posting in at least three (3) conspicuous places within the City.

ENACTED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod this 1st day of June, 2026.

ATTY. OLIVA D. TELEGATOS
Secretary

ATTESTED:

ATTY. ALYSSA RENEE A. CRUZ
Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

MARIO VITTORIO A. MARIÑO
City Mayor

Date Approved: JUN 16 2026

HON. LORENZO A. GAMBOA JR.
HON. ARMANDO C. LAZARTE
HON. GERARDO A. DELA ROCA
HON. ANDREA F. MACARAIG
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HON. AILIN GRACE O. DIMACUHA

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BATANGAS CITY

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION HELD BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF BATANGAS CITY ON JUNE 1, 2026 AT THE SANGGUNIAN SESSION HALL

PRESENT:

Hon. Alyssa Renee A. Cruz,	Presiding Officer
Hon. Maria Claudette U. Ambida,	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Aileen Grace A. Montalbo,	"
Hon. Arthur G. Blanco,	"
Hon. Gerardo A. Dela Roca,	"
Hon. Armando C. Lazarte,	"
Hon. Lorenzo A. Gamboa, Jr.,	"
Hon. Ailin Grace O. Dimacuha,	"
Hon. Zester Carlo M. Hernandez,	"
Hon. Jose Jonash Luis F. Tolentino,	"
Hon. Isidra "Ched" M. Atienza,	"
Hon. Michael C. Villena,	"
Hon. Macario L. Macalalad,	Liga ng mga Barangay President
Hon. Sherwin C. Tejada,	SK Pederasyon President

LATE:

Hon. Andrea Loise F. Macaraig,	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member

"On motion of SP Member Tolentino duly seconded, the following Resolution was Adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-176 S. 2026

APPROVING ON SECOND AND FINAL READING THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE MANDATING ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS TO SECURE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ACCREDITATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

RESOLVED, to approve on Second and Final Reading the Ordinance entitled: "An Ordinance Mandating All Animal Bite Treatment Centers in the City of Batangas to Secure Department of Health (DOH) Accreditation and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof, and for Other Purposes".

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED."

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 25-176 S. 2026 was approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Batangas City during its Regular Session held on June 1, 2026.

GERARDO M. DIMAANO
Board Secretary III

NOTED:

ATTY. OLIVA D. TELEGATOS
Secretary

ATTESTED:

ATTY. ALYSSA RENEE A. CRUZ
Presiding Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Batangas City
Sangguniang Panlungsod

Office of SP Member Jose Jonash Luis F. Tolentino
Tel. No. (043) 727 – 5178 Email: drjonashtolentino@gmail.com

COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE : **MAY 25, 2026**

TO : **THE HONORABLE PRESIDING OFFICER AND MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**

FROM : **THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

SUBJECT : **AN ORDINANCE MANDATING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) ACCREDITATION AND STANDARDS FOR ALL ANIMAL BITE TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

BACKGROUND

The aforementioned subject was referred to the Committee on Health on April 20, 2026.

The Committee Hearing was held May 04, 2026, 1:00 in the afternoon at the Sangguniang Panlungsod Session Hall, Batangas City.

SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD MEMBERS

Atty. Alyssa Renee A. Cruz	City Vice Mayor and Presiding Officer
Hon. Jose Jonash Luis F. Tolentino	Chairperson–Committee on Health
Hon. Isidra M. Atienza	Vice-Chairperson– Committee on Health
Hon. Andrea Loise F. Macaraig	Member- Committee on Health
Hon. Zester Carlo M. Hernandez	Member- Committee on Health
Hon. Sherwin C. Tejada	Member- Committee on Health
Hon. Claudette U. Ambida	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Aileen Grace A. Montalbo	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Arthur G. Blanco	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Gerardo A. Dela Roca	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Armando C. Lazarte	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Lorenzo A. Gamboa Jr.	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Ailin Grace O. Dimacuha	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Michael C. Villena	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Macario I. Macalalad	ABC President

LUNINGNING A. AQUINO
Board Secretary III
5/25/2026
8:00 am

Republic of the Philippines
Batangas City
Sangguniang Panlungsod

Office of SP Member Jose Jonash Luis F. Tolentino
Tel. No. (043) 727 – 5178 Email: drjonashtolentino@gmail.com

PROPONENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER RELATED OFFICES

Ms. Herminia M. Villena	Office of the City Administrator –Representative
Atty. Jebril Alan Calingasan	Office of the City Legal Officer – Representative
Dr. Patrick Ruel P. Chavez	Office of the City Health Officer – Representative
Mr. Patrick Henry Rivera	Office of the City Health Officer – Representative
Mr. Laurence Badillo	Office of the City Health Officer – Representative
Ms. Bella A. Palas	BPLO –Representative
Dr. Flora Shiela A. Lualhati	Office of the City Veterinarian Officer-Representative
Ms. Flora D. Alvarez	City Agriculturist Office of the City Agriculture
Ms. Zhai Sigalat	Head to Toe Animal Bite Center-Representative
Mr. Denise Albert I. Abla	St. Ezekiel Animal Bite Center-Representative
Mr. Jv Gerico P. Delmo	Dr. Care Animal Bite Center-Representative
Ms. Jenny De Ocampo	Caring-Hands Animal Bite Center-Representative
Ms. Leslee Amor Espiritu	Bite Shield Animal Bite Center -Representative
Ms. Agnes Macatangay Casimbon	JGMD Medical Clinic and Animal Bite Center-Representative
Ms. Dianne Frane	Dr. Pau Animal Bite Center-Representative
Ms. Maria Alexa M. Sistoso	Med City Animal Bite Center-Representative
Mr. Simeon P. Perez	Batangas City People's Council

DISCUSSION

In this Committee Hearing, the Committee Chairman acknowledged all Sangguniang Panlungsod Members, as well as the resource persons from different animal bite centers in Batangas City.

Hon. Ambida raised a concern regarding the Title of the Proposed Ordinance to ensure that the structure of the said Ordinance is neat.

Atty. Calingasan (City Legal Office) stated that in the "Whereas" section, it is noted that the Department of Health (DOH), pursuant to R.A. No. 9482 and related issuances, retains primary authority over the accreditation and regulation of Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTCs) and Animal Bite Centers (ABCs). The City Government of Batangas recognizes such authority and seeks to complement it through local regulatory measures to establish primary authority over the animal bite centers within Batangas City.

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Tel. No. (043) 727 – 5178 Email: drjonashtolentino@gmail.com

Hon. Hernandez raised a concern regarding Section 3, which mentions the application for new or renewal of business permits within the territorial jurisdiction of Batangas City. He sought clarification on whether existing Animal Bite Treatment Centers are still required to comply with said accreditation.

Atty. Calingasan suggested an insertion in Section 2 (Declaration of Policy) stating that this Ordinance shall be supplementary to national laws, rules, and regulations, and shall not be construed to amend, modify, or supersede the regulatory authority of the Department of Health over ABTCs and ABCs. He also added to Section 4 (Definition of Terms) the definition of the term RIG (Rabies Immune Globulin).

Hon. Ambida mentioned the construction of Section 5, suggesting changes in the terms used. Instead of an opening statement, she proposed using titles for every cycle under Section 5 (General Guidelines) for clarity and to remove redundancies. Furthermore, regarding item Number 4 on "Continued compliance with accreditation standards," she suggested changing the section heading to Business Permit Requirements. Consequently, Section 6 would be titled Provisional Compliance Period.

Dr. Patrick Chavez (CHO) mentioned that regarding the registration issuance cycle, the validity of the DOH Certification is currently only two (2) years; however, according to the DOH, the cycle period may change from time to time. Dr. Chavez asked the body if the said period could be adjusted accordingly.

Hon. Jonash Tolentino noted that instead of specifying a fixed timeframe, the city should align with whatever new timeframe is issued by the DOH.

Hon. Tolentino also highlighted Section 5.3, which states that "Certified facilities shall, at all times, maintain the following minimum standards." He emphasized that this part of the guidelines is crucial as it significantly impacts the ordinance regarding medical equipment, vaccines, and storage. He also stressed the importance of proper management of bio-hazardous and medical waste disposal in accordance with R.A. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000) and DOH Circulars.

Mr. Denis Alba (St. Ezekiel Animal Bite Center) discussed the waste disposal protocols of their clinic. He stated that they have a designated storage area prior to collection by the garbage collector, specifically for sharp objects, and they utilize their own Accredited Hauler to ensure the proper disposal of clinical waste.

Hon. Tolentino inquired about how establishments hire their physicians or nursing attendants. He also asked whether the annual monitoring visits by the City Health Office are announced or conducted as surprise inspections.

Republic of the Philippines
Batangas City
Sangguniang Panlungsod

Office of SP Member Jose Jonash Luis F. Tolentino
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Dr. Chavez clarified that the CHO always conducts unannounced visits to Animal Bite Centers. He added that annual monitoring is sufficient as long as the centers remain compliant and maintain a connection with the City Health Office.

Hon. Andrea Macaraig raised a follow-up question regarding monitoring, asking if the City Health Office is authorized to conduct Random Inspections.

Dr. Chavez confirmed that they monitor Animal Bite Centers through surprise or random inspections.

Atty. Calingasan proposed an insertion regarding monitoring in Section 6: "For this purpose, duly authorized personnel of the City Health Office (CHO), upon presentation of proper identification, shall be allowed to conduct inspections during reasonable business hours to verify compliance with applicable standards."

Mr. Sammy Perez (Batangas City People's Council He sought clarification on Section 7 (Requirements for Business Permit) regarding the terminology used, suggesting that the word "recognized" be changed to "accredited." He also inquired about the status of "Trained Physicians," specifically whether they are required to be residents of the clinic or if they can serve as consultants.

Mr. Denis Alba (St. Ezekiel Animal Bite Center) He explained that a General Physician is required and must undergo accredited training. He noted that consultations can be conducted via online video calls, while the actual administration of vaccines in the clinics is performed by Licensed Nurses.

Ms. Bella Palas (BPLO) raised a concern regarding the Section 7 Requirements, noting that there are currently only eight (8) registered animal bite centers. She also questioned what the status of these existing centers would be once the ordinance is approved.

Hon. Jonash Tolentino consulted Atty. Calingasan and Dr. Chavez regarding the proposed 60-day period, asking if the timeframe is sufficient, too long, or appropriate for compliance.

Dr. Royales (Med City) explained that the accreditation process must begin with the City Health Office (CHO), which will then issue an endorsement letter to be presented to the Department of Health (DOH) for final accreditation.

Dr. Patrick Chavez (CHO) further clarified the process, stating that clinics must first complete self-assessment forms. Once finished, the CHO will coordinate with the Provincial

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Office. Only after these steps are taken will the application be forwarded to the DOH for accreditation.

Ms. Agnes Casimbon (JGMD Clinic and Animal Bite Center) highlighted the difficulty of securing slots for accredited training, noting that availability is extremely limited. She suggested that the City Government assist them by conducting local training or accreditation programs to help them comply with the requirements of the ordinance.

Dr. Chavez acknowledged the struggle in securing training slots for physicians. He assured the body that his core team is in constant communication with the DOH to request additional slots or schedules, though they are currently waiting for the DOH's response.

Ms. Jenny De Ocampo (Caring Hands Animal Bite Center) added that their clinic also struggles with the registration process. She shared that when they attempted to secure a slot at the DOH main office, they were denied because walk-in applications for the training are not permitted.

Hon. Tolentino proposed that, in the interim, the City Health Office could issue a "Certification of Application." He suggested including this in the Provisional Section of the ordinance so that centers can proceed with their business permit applications. This serves as a formal recognition by the City Government that the establishment has a pending accreditation application.

Hon. Hernandez raised a concern regarding Section 9 (Penalties), seeking clarification on the proper structuring and graduation of penalties for the First, Second, and Third Offenses.

Hon. Atienza questioned the legality of the term "Blacklisted" under the Third Offense, asking if it is the appropriate legal terminology for establishments that fail to comply with the requirements.

Atty. Calingasan stated that the phrasing would be reviewed and revised to ensure the most appropriate legal terminology is used.

Hon. Tolentino explained that the term "blacklisted" was used to emphasize the gravity of the ordinance. He cited instances in other jurisdictions where patients died even after completing a full vaccination series. He also noted that some "scam" establishments in Batangas City operate without meeting standards and simply change their business names when flagged by the CHO. He stressed that strict terminology is necessary to deter such practices.

Hon. Sherwin Tejada he questioned whether the proposed fines for violators were sufficient. Hon. Tolentino reminded the body that under the Local Government Code, the

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maximum administrative penalty a local unit can impose is ₱5,000.00, though the National Government may impose separate, higher penalties.

There being no further comments or objections, the Committee hereby approves the proposed ordinance in to, subject to the amendments discussed. Consequently, the Committee shall prepare the committee report for submission to the Sanggunian for final deliberation.

FINDINGS

Upon assessing the concerns raised by the Sangguniang Panlungsod Members, and the invited Resource Persons, the Committee finds the following:

The Committee finds that while the Department of Health (DOH) retains primary authority over the accreditation and regulation of Animal Bite Treatment Centers (ABTCs) and Animal Bite Centers (ABCs), there is a critical need for local regulatory measures to complement these national standards within Batangas City. A significant finding is the extreme difficulty local clinics face in securing slots for DOH-accredited training, which is a prerequisite for formal accreditation: This has led to a recommendation for the City Government to potentially assist through local training programs or the issuance of a "Certification of Application" to allow centers to proceed with business permit applications in the interim.

The Committee also identified a need for greater clarity and structural refinement in the ordinance, particularly regarding the alignment of registration cycles with DOH timeframes and the precise legal terminology used for penalties, such as the graduation of offenses and the use of the term "blacklisted". Furthermore, the findings highlight the importance of establishing clear authority for the City Health Office (CHO) to conduct unannounced and random inspections to ensure continuous compliance with safety standards, including proper waste management protocols for clinical sharp objects. Ultimately, the Committee determined that the proposed ordinance, subject to the discussed amendments regarding terminology and provisional compliance periods, is necessary to deter "scam" establishments and ensure the safety of patients receiving rabies vaccinations.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the foregoing assessment, the Committee on Health puts forward the following recommendations:

1. The adoption of this Committee Report; and
2. The proposed ordinance be scheduled in the Agenda for the next Regular Session for Second and Final Reading.

Respectfully submitted, May 25, 2026

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