

Item No.: 04
Date: 15. 2026 SEP



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

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PROVINCE OF LEYTE
LEGAL OFFICE

RELEASED

By: [Signature]
Date: 9-8-26 Time: 9:24

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED
Date: SEP 08 2026
By: [Signature]

PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

2nd INDORSEMENT

August 12, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 2026-053 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Carigara, Leyte.

Issues/concerns for review/recommendation/legal opinion is/are as follows:

- Ordinance No. 2026-053 entitled: "An Ordinance to revoking or cancelling Municipal Ordinance No. 2022-133"

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office opines that the subject Ordinance is, in general, within the legislative authority of the Sangguniang Bayan to repeal/amend its prior acts either expressly or by the passage of an essentially inconsistent resolution¹. Hence, we recommend for the declaration of its validity.

We hope to have assisted you with this request. Please note that the opinion rendered by this Office are based on the facts available and may vary or change when additional facts and documents are presented or changed. This opinion is likewise without prejudice to the opinions rendered by higher and competent authorities and/or the courts.

ATTY. JOSE RAYMUND A. ACOL
Provincial Legal Officer

¹ (Constantino vs. Desierto, 288 SCRA 654) April 13, 1998

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Palo, Leyte
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

1ST INDORSEMENT
07 August 2026



The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-053** of the **Municipality of Carigara, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance revoking or cancelling Municipal Ordinance No. 2022-133** entitled: **"An Ordinance establishing a Comprehensive Stray Animal Management, Animal Welfare, and Responsible Pet Ownership Framework in the Municipality of Carigara, Leyte, amending Municipal Ordinance No. 02, series of 1994.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "F. Uyvico".

FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian



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BAGONG PILIPINAS

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

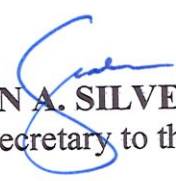
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Date: AUG 07 2026
By: [Signature]

1st Indorsement
August 07, 2026

Respectfully forwarded to the Honorable Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, thru the Provincial Board Secretary, Florinda Jill S. Uyvico, the herein **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-053** –“*An Ordinance Establishing a Comprehensive Stray Animal Management, Animal Welfare, and Responsible Pet Ownership Framework in the Municipality of Carigara, Leyte, Amending Municipal Ordinance No. 02, Series of 1994.*”

For your perusal and appropriate action.


RACHELYN A. SILVESTRE-CABALLES
MGDH – I (Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan)



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EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES/JOURNAL OF THE 54TH REGULAR
SESSION OF THE 20TH COUNCIL OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN
OF CARIGARA HELD AT THE SESSION HALL, LEGISLATIVE
BUILDING, CARIGARA, LEYTE, ON JULY 13, 2026

* * * * *

PRESENT:

Hon. Jimmy A. Camposano	-----	Mun. Vice Mayor-Pres. Officer
Hon. Fernando N. Moriel	-----	SB Member
Hon. Vilma M. Domus	-----	SB Member
Hon. Carlo Angelo B. Go	-----	SB Member
Hon. Ulpiano U. Arpon, Jr.	-----	SB Member
Hon. Joenlee C. Larraga	-----	SB Member
Hon. Myla L. Aguilar	-----	SB Member
Hon. Guillermo I. Panal	-----	SB Member
Hon. Arvin. N. Urmeneta	-----	SB Member-LnB President

ABSENT:

Hon. Mildred C. Modesto	-----	SB Member-Forced Leave
Hon. Daniel N. Ariaso, Jr.	-----	SB Member-SK Fed. Pres.

* * * * *

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE 2026-053
SERIES OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE STRAY
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT, ANIMAL WELFARE, AND
RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP FRAMEWORK IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF CARIGARA, LEYTE, AMENDING MUNICIPAL
ORDINANCE NO. 02, SERIES OF 1994

HON. MYLA B. LIGUTAN AGUILAR
AUTHOR



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Stray animals are a public hazard issue. They pose a hazard to motorists and stray populations pose a public health issue especially with bite and scratch incidents.

In this regard, this Ordinance amends Municipal Ordinance No. 02, Series of 1994, a measure that has long been overdue for updating. Thirty years have passed since its enactment, and in that time, many national legislations have been passed such as most notably the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007 and the Animal Welfare Act, as amended.

This Ordinance responds to that call by establishing a comprehensive framework for stray animal management, animal welfare, and responsible pet ownership grounded in humane treatment of animal welfare. It also recognizes that responsible pet ownership should be the crux of any stray management framework. Pet and companion animals are sentient beings. It is not the fault of the animal that it is stray, that solely rests on the owner.

This Ordinance heavily relies on a public education and public health model to address responsible pet ownership with clear accountability and to manage stray populations through spay and neuter programs and rescue and impounding and enforcing mandatory vaccinations.

I believe this Ordinance strikes the right balance between



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enforcement and compassion, public safety and animal welfare, and regulatory ambition and operational reality. I commend it to my colleagues for favorable consideration.

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, mandates Local Government Units to exercise powers necessary for their efficient and effective governance to promote the general welfare and the health and safety of their residents;

WHEREAS, Section 447 (a) (4) (viii) of the same Code empowers the Sangguniang Bayan to provide for the impounding of stray animals, regulate the keeping of animals in homes, and adopt measures to prevent and penalize cruelty to animals;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”, provides for the control, prevention, and eradication of rabies, establishes the need for responsible pet ownership, and mandates the control of the dog population by minimizing the number of unwanted stray dogs;

WHEREAS, Section 7 (8) of the same Act mandates first-class municipalities to establish and maintain a dog pound;

WHEREAS, Section 7 (10) of the same Act mandates the appointment of a Veterinarian and the establishment of a veterinary office in first-class municipalities;

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WHEREAS, the Local Health Board of the Municipality of Carigara, Leyte, enacted Local Health Board Resolution No. 5, Series of 2026, entitled “A Resolution Humbly Requesting the Sangguniang Bayan to Enact a Municipal Rabies Prevention and Control Ordinance to Strengthen the Implementation of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program in the Municipality of Carigara”, on 11 May 2026;

WHEREAS, dogs and cats are potential carriers of zoonotic diseases such as rabies, and contribute to the municipality’s stray animal problem, thereby necessitating regulatory measures to control their roaming and reduce the number of unwanted stray animals;

WHEREAS, stray animals include pet and companion animals (dogs and cats) and livestock animals such as draft or work animals (caraboas, horses), farm-based animals (cows, pigs and goats), and poultry (chickens, turkey, ducks) pose significant risks to public safety, property, traffic, and sanitation, and may constitute a public hazard;

WHEREAS, Section 6 of Republic Act 8485, as amended by Republic Act 10631, otherwise known as the “Animal Welfare Act”, prohibits the neglect of animals, the deprivation of adequate care, sustenance, or shelter, and maltreatment;

WHEREAS, responsible pet ownership, including proper care,



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confinement, and supervision of pets, together with adherence to animal welfare principles, is essential to prevent public hazards, control the stray population, and protect life, health, property, and public safety;

WHEREAS, the 9th Council of the Sangguniang Bayan passed Municipal Ordinance No. 2, Series of 1994, entitled, “*An Ordinance Penalizing Owner/Possessor/Caretaker of Astray Animal*” authored by former councilors Oscar P. Jao and Edgardo Tonelete;

WHEREAS, this Ordinance amends Municipal Ordinance 1994-02 to update, strengthen, and make it responsive to present conditions, and align its provisions with relevant national legislation, including Republic Act No. 8485, as amended, or the Animal Welfare Act, and RA 9482, or the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN THAT:

ARTICLE 1
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Purpose: This Ordinance amends Municipal Ordinance No. 02, Series of 1994, entitled “*An Ordinance Penalizing Owner/Possessor/Caretaker of Astray Animals*” to update, strengthen, and make it responsive to present conditions, and align its provisions with relevant national legislation, including Republic



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Act No. 8485, as amended by Republic Act No. 10631, or the “Animal Welfare Act”, and RA 9482, or the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”.

It shall apply to all animals raised, kept, or domesticated as pet and companion animals and livestock within the municipality, including farm-based animals, draft or work animals, fowl and poultry.

This amendment specifically aims to:

1. **Strengthen Enforcement:** Strengthen enforcement on Stray and Abandoned Animals within the municipality;
2. **Public Safety:** Protect life, health, property, and public safety by preventing stray animals from constituting a public hazard;
3. **Animal Welfare:** Promote animal welfare by ensuring humane treatment, shelter, and disposition, and strictly prohibiting the slaughter, sale, and trade of dog and cat meat for human consumption;
4. **Responsible Pet Ownership:** Promote responsible pet ownership and establish accountability mechanisms, including mandatory animal welfare compliance checks for owners with violations involving multiple animals, repeat violators, and cases of reported neglect, to ensure sustained responsible pet ownership;
5. **Animal Pound and Population Control:** Establish and maintain an animal pound and implement humane population control measures for unwanted stray animals;
6. **Institutionalize the LRPCP:** Establish and institutionalize the Local Rabies Prevention and Control Program (LRPCP) as the



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Municipality’s localized implementation of the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program (NRPCP), ensuring systematic coordination, enforcement, and sustainability of rabies prevention and control measures;

7. **Health Coordination and Medical Interventions:** Enhance public health coordination with the Municipal Health Office (MHO), including the promotion and provision of rabies pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis, mandatory anti-rabies vaccination, and strict regulation and public education on traditional practices such as *tandok*. Medical intervention shall remain the primary and mandatory response to animal bites and scratches to prevent rabies transmission; and
8. **Fiscal Sustainability:** Provide sustainable funding mechanisms, including the allocation of municipal funds and the imposition of reasonable fees and fines, recognizing that RA 9482 likewise authorizes local government units to collect certain fines imposed under the said Act to ensure the administrative feasibility of rabies prevention and control measures, thereby supporting the effective implementation and long-term sustainability of this Ordinance toward the realization of a rabies-free and responsible pet-owning municipality.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms:

- a. **“Stray Animal”** shall refer to any animal found roaming, wandering, or loose in public streets or roads, public places, or private property without the consent of the property



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owner, and without the immediate and effective control, restraint, or direct supervision of its owner or keeper.

- b. **“Abandoned Animals”** shall refer to any animal whose owner has relinquished all right, title, claim, or possession thereof with no intention of reclaiming or resuming ownership. An animal shall be considered abandoned under any of the following circumstances: it is left without proper care or supervision, or found with clear signs of neglect, maltreatment, injury, or deprivation indicative of lack of responsible ownership; it has been released or dumped in any location; it has not been redeemed by its owner within the prescribed holding period under this Ordinance; or it has been voluntarily surrendered to the Municipality.
- c. **“Animals in Distress”** shall refer to any animal showing clear signs of neglect, maltreatment, injury, seriously ill, or deprivation indicative of a lack of responsible ownership, and which requires immediate veterinary assessment and intervention.
- d. **“Ownerless Animals”** shall refer to animals without a registered or identifiable owner, which may, depending on risk classification, be subject to impoundment, population control, or disposition.
- e. **“Escaped Animals”** shall refer to animals that managed to escape or leave their proper containment or enclosure due to an accidental or isolated lapse in security, without the intent of being stray and whose owner promptly undertakes reasonable efforts to recover or contain it; without prejudice



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to the owner's civil or administrative liability under this Ordinance and applicable laws.

- f. **“Effective Control”** shall refer to the exercise of immediate and adequate supervision, restraint, confinement, or management over an animal by its owner, keeper, or caretaker, sufficient to prevent the animal from escaping, straying, causing injury or damage, or posing a risk to public safety. Effective control may be achieved through the use of a leash, harness, tether, fence, enclosure, or any other secure and humane control means appropriate for the animal and its intended use.
- g. **“Public Hazard”** shall refer to any animal, regardless of ownership, whose presence or behavior poses an immediate threat to life, health, property, or public safety, including but not limited to aggressive animals, roaming in high-traffic areas, endangering ecologically sensitive zones, causing damage or otherwise endangering people, property, or public safety.
- h. **“Alphanumeric Code Number (ACN)”** shall refer to the unique identification number assigned to each registered dog or cat upon registration, which serves as the official municipal identification for all health interventions, vaccination tracking, treatments, and municipal records.
- i. **“Pet and Companion Animal”** shall refer to any domesticated animal kept primarily for companionship, security, or non-commercial purposes within a household, and includes dogs and cats.



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- j. **“Livestock”** shall refer to farm-based animals, draft or work animals, and poultry.
- k. **“Draft or Work Animals”** shall refer to animals used primarily for labor or work purposes, including horses, carabaos, and buffaloes.
- l. **“Farm-Based Animals”** shall refer to animals raised primarily for food production, such as goats, sheep, cattle, and pigs.
- m. **“Fowl”** shall refer to domesticated birds kept primarily for companionship, recreation, exhibition, breeding, ornamental, or other non-commercial purposes, such as pigeons, doves, canaries, parrots, finches, and other similar avian species.
- n. **“Poultry”** shall refer to domesticated birds raised for food, agricultural, or commercial purposes, including chickens, turkey, ducks, and other birds similarly kept for such purposes.
- o. **“Municipal Animal Pound”** shall refer to a public facility or enclosure intended for stray or confiscated animals to maintain temporary custody managed by the Municipality.
- p. **“Rescue”** shall refer to the act of retrieving, capturing, or removing a stray, abandoned, or distressed animal from a public place by authorized personnel, for the purpose of impoundment, treatment, or disposition in accordance with this Ordinance.
- q. **“Impoundment”** shall refer to the temporary custody of a stray, abandoned, or rescued animal in the Municipal Animal Pound for documentation, assessment, and disposition pending redemption or further action under this Ordinance.



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- s. **"Euthanasia"** shall refer to the humane termination of an animal's life by a licensed Veterinarian, performed only under the conditions and in the manner authorized by DA Administrative Order No. 13, Series of 2010, as amended, and this Ordinance, to prevent unnecessary suffering or eliminate an unmanageable public safety threat.
- t. **"Humane Population Control"** shall refer to the systematic implementation of spay and neuter procedures, rabies vaccination, and yearly tagging of low-risk stray animals deemed ownerless, conducted by the Veterinarian under the MAO, to prevent overpopulation, reduce public health risks, and promote community safety, without causing unnecessary pain, suffering, or distress to the animal.
- u. **"Animal Welfare Check"** shall refer to a corrective and preventive inspection conducted by the veterinarian or authorized pound personnel to assess an owner's compliance with responsible pet ownership and animal welfare standards, the findings of which may be used as a basis for appropriate action by the ASAW.

ARTICLE 2
PROHIBITIONS

SECTION 3. Prohibitions:

The following acts are declared unlawful:

- a. To allow animals to stray deliberately, except when, by their



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nature and character or pursuant to customary husbandry practices, they have to be set free, such as young offspring of large cattle, which are allowed to be set free up to six (6) months old, provided that they do not constitute a public hazard and are under effective control where reasonably practicable;

- b. To allow fowl to go freely to feed in other premises especially during planting seasons, where they are most likely to cause damage to plants or seedlings;
- c. To abandon any animal, fail to provide necessary care and supervision, or to release and dump pets anywhere and in environmentally sensitive areas, resulting in environmental damage or the introduction of invasive species;
- d. To fail or refuse to comply with mandatory rabies vaccination, mandatory observation or quarantine after the animal has bitten or scratched a person, and the submission of the dog or cat that dies during the observation period for rabies laboratory examination at a recognized or accredited laboratory, as required under this Ordinance and applicable laws, including Republic Act No. 9482.
- e. To sell, trade, slaughter, purchase, or otherwise engage in the commercial distribution of dog or cat meat for human consumption;
- f. To hinder or obstruct the rescue, capture, impounding, adoption, transfer, or euthanasia of animals, or to interfere in the operations of authorized personnel carrying out their functions or duties duly mandated by this Ordinance;



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- g. To maltreat, poison, torture, inflict unnecessary suffering, or otherwise harm or endanger the life of animals, including animals under impoundment. Authorized personnel performing their duties under this Ordinance are likewise prohibited from committing any such acts.

ARTICLE 3
REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION

SECTION 4. Mandatory Pet or Companion Animal Registration: All owners of Pet or Companion animals, kept as pets, shall register their animals with the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) annually.

The following guidelines shall govern the Registration of Animals:

- A. **Animal Registry Ledger:** The MAO shall establish and maintain the Primary Animal Registry Ledger (ARL) as the official municipal registry. Each Barangay shall be furnished a copy of the Animal Registry Ledger (ARL) for animals within its jurisdiction.
- B. **Contents:** The ARL shall contain, at a minimum:
- Owner information, including name, address, and contact information of the owner or keeper;
 - Animal Information, including Name (if any), Species, Sex, Breed, (if applicable), Color, Distinguishing Marks, Spay/Neuter Status, and its assigned Alphanumeric



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Code Number;

- c. Registration Information, including date of registration and status of ownership, transfer, death, adoption, or permanent relocation, when applicable;
- d. Vaccination Records, including date of most recent anti-rabies vaccination and other immunization information as may be required by the MAO; and
- e. Impoundment and Enforcement History, if applicable, including records of rescue or capture, impoundment, redemption, disposition, and violations committed under this Ordinance.

C. Registration Fees: An annual registration fee of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) per dog or cat. Surgically sterilized (spayed or neutered) dogs or cats and certified by a licensed Veterinarian shall be entitled to a twenty percent (20%) discount on the annual registration fee. The registration fee shall be paid to the Municipal Treasurer's Office.

D. Alphanumeric Code Number: All registered dogs and cats shall be assigned a unique Alphanumeric Code Number (ACN) which shall serve as their official municipal identification for all health interventions, vaccination tracking, treatments, and municipal records.

E. Pet Booklets or Vaccination Cards: Owners of dogs and cats may be issued a pet booklet or vaccination card for a fee based on actual costs, as determined by the MAO, containing the



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animal’s Name, Birthdate, Sex, Breed (if applicable), Color, and Distinguishing Marks, and shall include the assigned Alphanumeric Code Number.

- a. The booklet shall serve as a permanent health record for tracking vaccinations, medication, and treatments. Existing booklets shall be recognized, with the unique Alphanumeric Code Number incorporated for consistency in identification and tracking.
- b. In the event of loss or damage, the owner may apply for either a replacement blank booklet or vaccination card for a fee based on actual costs, as determined by the MAO, or an official vaccination history printout from the Animal Registry Ledger certified by the MAO, for a higher fee, both to be determined by the MAO based on actual costs.

F. Data Privacy and Transparency: All Registration Records shall be used solely for enforcement, public health, and identification purposes and shall be subject to applicable data privacy laws, such as the “*Transparency Mechanism Ordinance for Freedom of Information of Carigara, Leyte* or Municipal Ordinance No. 17, Series of 2025, and subject to Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “*Data Privacy Act of 2012*” and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations on data privacy.



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SECTION 5. Animal Welfare and Responsible Pet Ownership

Education: There shall be a Sustained Public Education and Awareness Campaign on Animal Welfare and Responsible Pet Ownership across barangays, schools, and social media platforms, delivered in clear, simple, and localized language (Waray-Waray), when applicable, using culturally appropriate terms, with the aims to:

1. Promote responsible ownership, proper animal care, and humane treatment;
2. Ensure awareness and compliance with mandatory rabies vaccination and public safety protocols;
3. Educate the public on disease prevention and public health protection related to animals, including proper animal bite first-aid procedures;
4. Explicitly discourage the use or reliance on *tandok*, explain the legal consequences of its use, administration, and promotion, and mandate the seeking of immediate medical attention for bites or scratches; and
5. Disseminate the contents of this Ordinance, specifically the responsibilities of animal owners, prohibited acts, and corresponding penalties and fines for violations, to ensure widespread understanding and compliance.

To implement this Section, the following offices and entities shall:

A. Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO):

- a. Lead office and overall coordinator of the Campaign;



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- b. Develop IEC materials on Responsible Pet Ownership and Animal Welfare;
- c. Coordinate with Barangays for schedule and implementation;
- d. Coordinate reports and campaign outputs.

B. Municipal Health Office (MHO):

- a. Lead on Rabies Prevention, Bite Management, and Health Advisories;
- b. Conduct information drives on anti-rabies vaccination and post-exposure treatment;
- c. Provide guidance on medical response protocols, including discouraging *tandok* and promoting proper medical care.

C. Barangays:

- a. Serve as the frontline implementors at the community-level;
- b. Assist in the mobilization of residents during campaigns and vaccination activities;
- c. Disseminate information through barangay assemblies and local communication channels;

D. Academic Institutions:

- a. Assist in education campaigns in schools;
- b. Integrate animal welfare and rabies awareness in school-based activities.



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E. Civil Society, NGOs, Animal Welfare Groups (if available):

- a. Provide technical support, materials, or volunteer assistance;
- b. Support adoption drives and Responsible Pet Ownership advocacy.

ARTICLE 4

OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES and LIABILITIES

SECTION 6. Owner Responsibilities: Every animal owner within the municipality shall:

- A. **Control and Supervision:** Exercise proper and effective control and supervision at all times, and prevent the animal from deliberately straying or becoming a public hazard;
- B. **Humane Treatment:** Provide adequate food, water, and veterinary care consistent with humane treatment standards, and take reasonable measures at all time to ensure the safety and welfare of animals, especially during natural or man-made disasters or emergencies, including, where practicable, evacuating them or making appropriate arrangements for their care and protection.
- C. **Public Safety:** Prevent their animal from causing injury to persons, damage to property, destruction of crops, or obstruction of roads and public spaces;
- D. **Containment:** Secure and contain animals within appropriate enclosures, fencing, tethering, leashing, or control measures sufficient to prevent entry into public roads and neighboring



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properties;

- E. **Vaccination Compliance:** Ensure that dogs and cats are vaccinated against rabies in accordance with applicable legislation and municipal public health programs;
- F. **Identification:** Ensure that all dogs and cats wear a collar bearing their assigned ACN or any identification tag, plate, or device displaying the same, sufficient to permit identification of the owner and the animal;
- G. **Incident Response Reporting:** Immediately report and comply with observation or quarantine protocols for any bite, scratch, or injury caused by an owned animal, as required under Section 10 of this Ordinance.
- H. **Waste Management:** Ensure the proper collection and disposal of excreta/feces in a sanitary manner;
- I. **Carcass Disposal:** Immediately retrieve and properly dispose of any carcass of an animal under his or her ownership that dies on public or private property not belonging to the owner; provided, that if the animal was under home observation, quarantine, or is suspected or confirmed to have rabies, the owner shall immediately notify the proper municipal authorities for disposal and bear the associated costs.
- J. **Status Reporting:** Report the death, transfer of ownership, or permanent relocation of the animal as required under this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. Animal Owners' Liability: Animal Owners shall be liable for the following, without prejudice to the imposition of fines and



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penalties and applicable provisions of national laws and other regulations:

A. Animal Bites or Scratches:

- a. **Medical Expenses:** The owner shall be liable for all medical expenses of the victim, including emergency treatment, anti-rabies vaccination, post-exposure prophylaxis, as required by applicable health protocols, and follow-up medical care;
- b. **Incidental Costs:** The owner shall cover incidental and necessary expenses directly resulting from the incident, such as transportation expenses for medical treatment.
- c. **Mitigating Circumstances:** Liability may be reduced or mitigated if it is proven that the bite or scratch resulted from provocation, deliberate teasing, or defensive behavior of the animal, whether straying or not, in proportion to the contributory fault of the injured person, as determined by a competent authority or court.

B. Damage to Property: The animal owner shall be liable for any property damage caused by their animals. Liability shall follow applicable municipal regulations, such as the corresponding imposition of payments for damaged property or crops in the Tax Ordinance implemented in the Municipality.

C. Accidents caused by stray animals:



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- a. **Damages and Expenses:** Animal owners shall be held liable for the resulting damages and expenses if their animal, regardless of registration status, causes a vehicular accident or any other incident resulting in injury, death, or property damage while straying.
- b. **Mitigating Circumstances:** Liability may be reduced proportionally if the incident was primarily caused by the victim's unlawful, reckless, or negligent act or violation of traffic regulations. The liability of the animal owner may be reduced or extinguished proportionally to the contributory fault of the driver, as determined by a competent authority or court.

D. Liability for Carcass Removal and Disposal:

- a. **Owner Responsibility:** Where an owned animal dies in a public place, whether through accident or other causes, the animal owner shall immediately retrieve and properly dispose of the carcass, including all associated costs.
- b. **Barangay Role:** Upon receipt of a report of a dead animal or upon discovery of an animal carcass, the concerned Barangay shall immediately notify the identifiable owner to retrieve and properly dispose of the carcass within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of notice.
- c. **Health Protocols:** If the animal dies while under home observation, quarantine, suspected or confirmed to have rabies, the owner shall immediately notify the proper



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municipal authorities and bear the disposal cost. Where the animal dies while under municipal observation, quarantine, or impoundment, the owner shall likewise bear the corresponding costs, subject to the procedures prescribed under the pertinent provisions of this Ordinance.

- d. **Failure to Comply:** If the owner fails or refuses to retrieve and properly dispose of the carcass within the prescribed period after due notice, the concerned Barangay shall undertake carcass removal as part of public sanitation measures, and the owner shall be liable for the actual cost incurred for retrieval, transport, and disposal, and the prescribed fine under this Ordinance for failure to comply.
- e. **Public Health and Sanitation:** If no owner is identified after reasonable verification, carcass removal shall be undertaken by the respective Barangay, as part of public health and sanitation responsibility.

E. Dispute Resolution: Private parties may opt to resolve civil disputes involving animal bites or scratches, damage to property caused by animals, claims for medical expenses, or other civil liabilities through the Katarungang Pambarangay, where applicable, prior to the institution of any court action.



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ARTICLE 5
HEALTH COMPONENTS

SECTION 8. *Mandatory Rabies Vaccination:* All Pet and Companion Animals, specifically dogs and cats, shall be vaccinated against rabies in accordance with existing national laws and public health regulations.

The MAO with the Barangays shall conduct regular, accessible mass anti-rabies vaccination programs, subject to vaccine availability. Unregistered animals presented for vaccination shall be immediately registered in accordance with Section 4 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. *Protection and Medical Assistance of High-Risk Personnel:* To ensure the safety of personnel enforcing this Ordinance, the following protections are established:

- A. *Pre-exposure Prophylaxis and Adequate Safety Gear:*** All hired personnel, community vaccinators, and animal pound volunteers involved in the rescue, capture, population control, or the disposition of animals shall receive Rabies Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis and adequate safety gear prior to the performance of their duties.
- B. *Municipal Support:*** The Municipality shall provide medical assistance and necessary support to personnel injured or affected in the line of duty during animal rescue, transport,



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population control, or disposition activities.

SECTION 10. Mandatory Reporting of All Bite/Scratch Incidents:

- A. **Immediate Reporting:** The animal owner or bite/scratch victim shall immediately report the incident to the MHO within twenty-four (24) hours.
- B. **Observation and Quarantine:** In cases of bites or scratches, the owner shall immediately submit the animal for observation or quarantine as directed by health authorities following applicable national health guidelines.
- C. **Regulation of Tandok:** It shall be unlawful for any person to use or administer *tandok* for treating any animal bites or scratches. The MHO and the MAO shall ensure that bitten individuals are directed to seek immediate medical attention at recognized health facilities.

**ARTICLE 6
VETERINARIAN**

SECTION 11. Veterinarian: There shall be a licensed Veterinarian, as provided in Department of Interior and Local Government Memorandum Circular 2021-020 and pursuant to Section 7 (10) of the Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”, under the Municipal Agriculture Office, until a Municipal Veterinary Office is established, in accordance with applicable Civil Service Commission rules, the Local Government Code, and all



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requirements for municipal personnel.

However, if due to budget constraints or no Veterinarian can be hired, alternative arrangements such as contracting existing licensed Veterinarians may be arranged or interim coordination may be done with the Provincial Veterinary Office or partner veterinary services, depending on their availability.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the Veterinarian shall:

A. Rabies Prevention and Immunization Operations:

- a. Ensure the proper administration and handling of rabies vaccines, barbiturates, and official vaccination records in accordance with accepted veterinary standards;
- b. Supervise mass vaccination campaigns in coordination with community vaccinators and the Barangay Animal Welfare Committees (BAWC) to ensure proper administration;
- c. Ensure proper recording of vaccinations in Pet Booklets and the Animal Registry Ledger, as part of medical verification;
- d. Provide technical guidance and advice to the Anti-Stray/Animal Welfare Committee (ASAW), as will be established under Section 12 of this Ordinance, on vaccination protocols and recordkeeping.

B. Animal Welfare and Pound Management:

- a. Oversee humane handling and treatment of animals



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within the Municipal Animal Pounds and during field operations;

- b. Provide medical attention to animals in pounds, including diagnosis, treatment, and preventive care, and conduct initial veterinary assessment of animals in distress transferred to the Municipal Animal Pound to determine the appropriate course of action;
- c. Perform surgical sterilization (spay and neuter) and tagging of low-risk stray populations;
- d. Perform humane euthanasia strictly in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act and this Ordinance;
- e. Conduct welfare checks to ensure compliance with the humane treatment provisions of this Ordinance;
- f. Provide medical guidance to the pound staff regarding health, sanitation, and population control measures;
- g. Conduct regular inspections of the Municipal Animal Pound to ensure compliance with humane treatment standards, sanitation requirements, and animal welfare regulations, and report findings to the ASAW.

C. Training and Capacity-Building. Train and certify community vaccinators, pound personnel, and field implementers on proper vaccination techniques, humane capture and handling, and animal welfare standards, as needed.

D. Reporting and Data Management:

- a. Maintain records of vaccinated animals, population control activities, and the Euthanasia Logbook;



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D. Phase IV. Full Enforcement:

Upon:

- a. Certification by the Municipal Engineer's Office that the Municipal Animal Pound has been completed;
- b. Confirmation by the MAO that the pound is operational and capable of receiving impounded animals; and
- c. Registration of the Municipal Animal Pound with the Bureau of Animal Industry pursuant to Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8485, as amended;

The enforcement mechanisms of this Ordinance shall take full effect. Animal owners shall thereafter be required to pay the registration fee prescribed under Section 4 of this Ordinance, and stray animals shall be subject to rescue, impoundment, disposition, adoption, redemption, or euthanasia, as applicable, in accordance with this Ordinance.

Pending the commencement of Phase IV, High-Risk Stray Animals classified under Section 16 (F) of this Ordinance may be managed through existing emergency response mechanisms such as the Threat to Life Exception in Section 20 (C), where such animal poses an imminent threat to human life or safety and immediate capture is not reasonably practicable, the Philippine National Police (PNP), upon request of the Municipal Government or in the lawful exercise of its authority, may employ necessary and reasonable force to



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immediately neutralize the animal, subject to the same conditions prescribed under Section 20(C) of this Ordinance, including veterinary supervision where practicable and after-the-fact reporting to the Veterinarian and the ASAW, as provided in DA AO 13, Series of 2010, as amended by AO 9, Series of 2011.

SECTION 29. Separability Clause: Should any portion of this Ordinance be found unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of proper jurisdiction, all remaining provisions shall remain in effect and shall not be affected by the ruling on the invalid section.

SECTION 30. Repealing Clause: Municipal Ordinance No. 2, Series of 1994, entitled "An Ordinance Penalizing Owner/Possessor/Caretaker of Astray Animal," is hereby repealed. All other ordinances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 31. Effectivity Clause: This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its posting in at least three conspicuous places in the Municipality of Carigara, Leyte, and on the Official Website of the Municipality and its social media platforms.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY this 13th day of July 2026 at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall, Carigara, Leyte.

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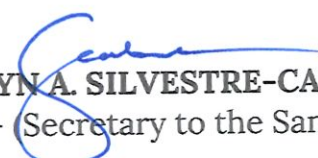


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I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and accurate copy of the ordinance enacted by the Sanggunian on 13 July 2026.


RACHELYN A. SILVESTRE-CABALLES
MGDH I - (Secretary to the Sanggunian)

Attested:


JIMMY A. CAMPOSANO
Municipal Vice Mayor / Presiding Officer

Concurred:


FERNANDO N. MORIEL
SB Member


VILMA M. DOMUS
SB Member


MILDRED C. MODESTO
SB Member (Forced Leave)


CARLO ANGELO B. GO
SB Member

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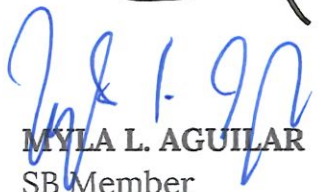
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ULPIANO U. ARPON, JR.
SB Member


JOENLEE C. LARRAGA
SB Member


MYLA L. AGUILAR
SB Member


GUILLERMO L. PANAL
SB Member

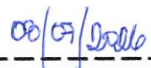

ARVIN N. URMENETA
SB Member-LnB Pres.

DANIEL N. ARIASO JR.
SB Member-SK Fed. Pres.
(Forced Leave)

Approved:


EDUARDO T. ONG, JR.
Municipal Mayor

Date Approved





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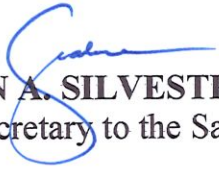
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CERTIFICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that a public hearing was conducted last June 23, 2026 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the 2nd Floor, Liga Hall Building, Brgy. Ponong, Carigara, Leyte for the deliberation of the proposed **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-053** –*“An Ordinance Establishing a Comprehensive Stray Animal Management, Animal Welfare, and Responsible Pet Ownership Framework in the Municipality of Carigara, Leyte, Amending Municipal Ordinance No. 02, Series of 1994.”*

ISSUED this 7th day of August, 2026.


RACHELYN A. SILVESTRE-CABALLES
MGDH – I (Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan)



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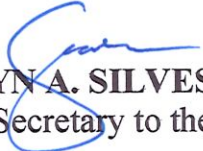


BAGONG PILIPINAS

CERTIFICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that **Municipal Ordinance No. 2026-053** –“*An Ordinance Establishing a Comprehensive Stray Animal Management, Animal Welfare, and Responsible Pet Ownership Framework in the Municipality of Carigara, Leyte, Amending Municipal Ordinance No. 02, Series of 1994*”, was posted last, August 07, 2026 in accordance with R.A. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

ISSUED this 7th day of August, 2026.


RACHELYN A. SILVESTRE-CABALLES
MGDH – I (Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan)