

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 84, March 13, 1999]

DECLARING MARCH AS THE RABIES AWARENESS MONTH, RATIONALIZING THE CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF RABIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

WHEREAS , rabies is a dangerous disease of dog transmissible to humans through the bite of an infected animal;

WHEREAS , approximately 560,000 bite cases are reported every year;

WHEREAS , rabies accounts for the loss of approximately 300-400 Filipino lives every year and causes much agony and suffering to victims and their families before death;

WHEREAS , the disease can be prevented through mass immunization of pet dogs and responsible pet ownership;

WHEREAS , leashing of dogs and control of stray dogs are important complementary strategies in the control and eradication of rabies;

WHEREAS , information and education on rabies prevention measures, first aid for dog bites, and other relevant facts concerning rabies are critical for its eradication;

WHEREAS , the failure to eradicate rabies in the country greatly affects the public health and safety of the Filipino people;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA , President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare that the month of March every year shall henceforth be known as the Rabies Awareness Month, and order:

SECTION 1. A massive information drive on rabies shall be held nationwide every year in the month of March, complemented by a mass immunization of dogs in key areas nationwide and that the vaccines shall be provided for free to the public.

SEC. 2. During the Rabies Awareness Month, the cooperating agencies of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI), Department of Health-Communicable Disease Control Service (DOH-CDCS), Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) – Provincial Veterinary Office shall conduct seminars, fora, radio and television plugs, symposiums and other information campaigns in coordination with one another.

The DA-BAI shall procure sufficient number of vaccines, and vaccination paraphernalia to cover the key areas during the mass immunization of dogs nationwide;