

**[DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 24 SERIES OF
2003, October 07, 2003]**

**POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE DECLARATION OF RABIES
FREE ZONE IN THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, that Rabies is a notifiable disease in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) requires that no indigenously acquired rabies infection has been confirmed in man and any animal species during the past 2 years;

WHEREAS, An effective system of disease surveillance for Human and Animal rabies has been set up and well implemented in the provinces. The activities will be handled by the DA-RFU for animal rabies and the DOH for human rabies;

WHEREAS, that all regulatory measures for the prevention and control of rabies have been implemented including effective importation procedures. It will be handled by the Veterinary Quarantine Service of the DA-RFU;

WHEREAS, no imported case in carnivores has been confirmed outside the quarantine station for the past 6 months;

NOW THEREFORE, I LUIS P. LORENZO JR., Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby issue this order;

SECTION 1. Guidelines on the implementation of the Rabies Free Zone in the Philippines

COLLABORATIVE MECHANISM

1. The Governor and Municipal Mayor must take charge of the implementation of the declared Free Zone in the province/city/municipality in their respective Constituents.
2. The Barangay officials must extend full support and cooperation to the **Bantay Rabis sa Barangay** headed by the Barangay Captain, who must take charge of the entry of new dogs and maintained the registry of all dogs in the catchments area.
3. The Provincial Rabies Control Committee in coordination with the Municipal Rabies Control Committee must oversee and implement the NRPCP policies and guidelines in maintaining the Free Zone in their respective area.
4. The DA/DOH Regional Rabies Control Committee of the Regional Office must supervise and assess the implementation of the Rabies Free Zone in the province.