

I Mina'Trentai Kuáttro Na Liheslaturan
BILL STATUS

| BILL NO. | SPONSOR | TITLE | DATE INTRODUCED | DATE REFERRED | CMTE REFERRED | PUBLIC HEARING DATE | DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED | FISCAL NOTES | NOTES |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------|
| 120-34 (COR) | B. J.F. Cruz Régine Biscoe Lee | AN ACT TO AMEND § 34307 AND TO ADD § 34308 TO CHAPTER 34, TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO SETTING THE FEE FOR ENTRY PERMITS FOR ANY DOG OR CAT IMPORTED INTO GUAM, AND ESTABLISHING THE SOLUTION TO OVERPOPULATION OF PETS (STOP) FUND TO IMPLEMENT AN ISLAND-WIDE SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM. | 6/20/17 10:13 a.m. | | | | | | |

I MINA'TRENTAI KUATRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 120-34(COR)

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz
R.B. Lee

AN ACT TO AMEND § 34307 AND TO ADD § 34308 TO CHAPTER 34, TITLE 10 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO SETTING THE FEE FOR ENTRY PERMITS FOR ANY DOG OR CAT IMPORTED INTO GUAM, AND ESTABLISHING THE SOLUTION TO OVERPOPULATION OF PETS (STOP) FUND TO IMPLEMENT AN ISLAND-WIDE SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM.

2017 JUN 20 AM 10:13
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1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the unchecked stray dog and cat
3 populations on Guam have a significant, negative impact on our island community.
4 Public health risks, especially related to diseases such as rabies (which is prevalent
5 in neighboring countries), pose very serious dangers to both the human and animal
6 populations. Stray animals join in aggressive packs, which further endanger people.
7 The visual presence of unhealthy, roaming animals negatively impacts tourists'
8 perception of our island. And ultimately, the lives of stray dogs and cats are shorter
9 and often unhealthy.

10 *I Liheslatura* finds that, if left unchecked, the stray animal problem will
11 continue to grow. A 2014 survey conducted by Humane Society International finds
12 that there are over 24,500 stray dogs on Guam, more than double the number
13 estimated by the government of Guam in 1975.

1 *I Liheslatura* finds that the government contracted animal shelter in Yigo,
2 operated by the non-profit organization Guam Animals In Need (GAIN), seeks to
3 implement an island-wide affordable spay/neuter program in collaboration with
4 Humane Society International and veterinary clinic partners. The goal is to
5 spay/neuter seventy-five percent (75%) of all dogs and cats on Guam, which is the
6 threshold at which a stray animal population begins to reduce in number. Using
7 privately raised donations and grants, GAIN has already taken initial steps toward
8 this goal by recently establishing a pilot community spay/neuter clinic on-site and
9 completing over seven hundred and fifty (750) procedures. *I Liheslatura* understands
10 that to achieve this goal, increased capacity is necessary. The on-site clinic coupled
11 with a supplementary voucher system with veterinary clinic partners will assist in
12 achieving this goal.

13 With the potential adverse impacts the stray animal population has on Guam
14 and its people and the funding sources available to address such problems, *I*
15 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends to establish a dedicated long-term funding source with
16 the increase of the entry permit fee for dogs and cats, in addition to its annual funding
17 for shelter operational needs, to the government contracted animal shelter, GAIN.

18 **Section 2.** Section 34307 of Chapter 34, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
19 hereby *amended* to read:

20 **“§ 34307. Creation of Rabies Prevention Fund.**

21 There is created a special fund called the “Rabies Prevention Fund,”
22 which shall be exclusively used to support the implementation of this Act, ~~and~~
23 to maintain, enhance and secure the prevention of rabies on Guam, and to
24 support the operations of the Animal Health/Control Division of the
25 Department of Agriculture and its Territorial Veterinarian. The Rabies
26 Prevention fund shall be separate and apart from all other funds of the
27 government of Guam, shall be kept in a separate bank account, and shall not

1 be subject to any transfer authority of *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*, or any inter-fund
2 transfers. All money collected under the provisions of this Chapter shall be
3 deposited in the Rabies Prevention Fund, with the following exceptions: 1)
4 the fee assessed for each issuance of an entry permit for any dog or cat
5 imported into Guam shall be One Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$175) of
6 which Sixty Dollars (\$60) shall be deposited into the Rabies Prevention Fund
7 and One Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$115) shall be deposited into the Solution
8 To the Overpopulation of Pets (STOP) Fund established in § 34308 of this
9 Chapter. The Department of Administration shall be responsible for
10 maintaining the accounting and administration of ~~this~~ each fund. No later than
11 December 31st of each year, the Directors of the Departments of
12 Administration and Agriculture shall report to *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan* and *I*
13 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* on the administration of ~~this~~ these funds, including the
14 total monies collected and deposited in ~~this~~ each fund and the total expended
15 from each.”

16 **Section 3.** A new § 34308 is hereby *added* to Chapter 34, Title 10 of the Guam
17 Code Annotated to read:

18 **“§ 34308. Creation of the Solution To the Overpopulation of Pets (STOP)**
19 **Fund.**

20 (a) There is hereby created, separate and apart from other funds of the
21 government of Guam, a fund known as the Solution To the Overpopulation of
22 Pets (STOP) Fund. The STOP Fund shall be separate and apart from all other
23 funds of the government of Guam, shall be kept in a separate bank account,
24 and shall not be subject to any transfer authority of *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*, or
25 any inter-fund transfers.

1 (b) Pursuant to § 34307 of this Chapter, One Hundred Fifteen Dollars
2 (\$115) from each issuance of an entry permit for any dog or cat imported into
3 Guam shall be deposited into the STOP Fund.

4 (c) The STOP Fund shall be exclusively used to support the operations
5 of the government contracted Animal Shelter for the sole purpose of creating,
6 administering, and maintaining an affordable, quality island-wide spay and
7 neuter program for dogs and cats. Such program shall prioritize members of
8 the public who present an EBT card, Medicaid card, or low income housing
9 voucher. A fee of not more than Sixty Dollars (\$60.00) shall be charged to a
10 client for the spaying of a female dog or cat or the neutering of a male dog or
11 cat by the government contracted Animal Shelter. Such program may include
12 a supplementary voucher system, administered by the government contracted
13 animal shelter, to provide affordable, quality spay and neuter procedures by
14 participating private veterinary clinics. For the purpose of this subsection:

15 (1) ‘EBT card’ means a card issued by the Department of Public
16 Health and Social Services or equivalent agency that will allow the
17 holder to access social service benefits in an electronic benefit transfer
18 account.

19 (2) ‘Medicaid card’ means a card issued by the Department of
20 Public Health and Social Services or equivalent agency for health care
21 coverage.

22 (3) ‘Low income housing voucher’ means a voucher or other
23 form of documentation that verifies that the household is currently
24 receiving government rental assistance for low-income households.”

25 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act *shall* become effective upon enactment.

26 **Section 5. Severability.** *If* any provision of this Act or its application to any
27 person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity *shall not* affect other provisions

- 1 or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision
- 2 or application and to this end the provisions of this Act is severable.