

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 27\*  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/6/09

Short Title: Regulate Euthanasia of Animals.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 3, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE EUTHANASIA OF ANIMALS AND TO SPECIFY  
3 CERTAIN METHODS OF EUTHANASIA OF ANIMALS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 19A-24(5) reads as rewritten:

6 "(5) Adopt rules on the euthanasia of animals in the possession or custody of any  
7 person required to obtain a certificate of registration under this Article. An  
8 animal ~~shall~~may only be put to death by a method and delivery of method  
9 approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association, ~~the Humane~~  
10 ~~Society of the United States, or the American Humane Association.~~  
11 Association, but only if this Article and the rules adopted by the Board are  
12 silent as to any necessary or required procedure or process for animal  
13 euthanasia. The Department shallmay establish rules for the euthanasia  
14 process using only American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines.  
15 ~~any one or combination of methods and standards prescribed by the three~~  
16 ~~mentioned organizations.~~ The rules shall address the equipment, the  
17 process, and the separation of animals, in addition to the animals' age and  
18 condition. If the gas method of euthanasia is approved, rules shall require (i)  
19 that only commercially compressed carbon monoxide gas in containers is  
20 approved for use, and (ii) that the gas must be delivered in a commercially  
21 manufactured chamber that allows for the individual separation of animals.  
22 Rules shall also mandate training for any person who participates in the  
23 euthanasia process."

24 **SECTION 2.** Article 3 of Chapter 19A of the General Statutes is amended by  
25 adding a new section to read:

26 "**§ 19A-26.1. Euthanasia of shelter animals.**

27 (a) Euthanasia of an animal in the possession or custody of an animal shelter shall be  
28 accomplished only by (i) a licensed veterinarian, (ii) a Certified Euthanasia Technician (CET),  
29 or (iii) a Probationary CET under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian or a CET,  
30 and only by one of the following three methods:

- 31 (1) By the administration of a lethal dose of sodium pentobarbital, or the  
32 equivalent of sodium pentobarbital, by the method of intravenous injection.  
33 (2) By the administration of a lethal dose of sodium pentobarbital, or the  
34 equivalent of sodium pentobarbital, by the method of intraperitoneal  
35 injection.  
36 (3) By the use of carbon monoxide gas.



1       **(b)**    The licensed veterinarian or CET shall, in his or her discretion, determine which  
2 method of euthanasia, set forth in subsection (a) of this section, is used on each animal.

3       **(c)**    The animal shelter shall keep a log that shall include, for each animal, all of the  
4 following information:

5           **(1)**    The method of euthanasia.

6           **(2)**    The name of the licensed veterinarian or CET who chose the method of  
7 euthanasia.

8           **(3)**    The basis or reason for choosing the method of euthanasia that was chosen."

9       **SECTION 3.** G.S. 130A-192 reads as rewritten:

10    "**§ 130A-192. Dogs and cats not wearing required rabies vaccination tags.**

11       The Animal Control Officer shall canvass the county to determine if there are any dogs or  
12 cats not wearing the required rabies vaccination tag. If a dog or cat is found not wearing the  
13 required tag, the Animal Control Officer shall check to see if the owner's identification can be  
14 found on the animal. If the animal is wearing an owner identification tag, or if the Animal  
15 Control Officer otherwise knows who the owner is, the Animal Control Officer shall notify the  
16 owner in writing to have the animal vaccinated against rabies and to produce the required  
17 rabies vaccination certificate to the Animal Control Officer within three days of the  
18 notification. If the animal is not wearing an owner identification tag and the Animal Control  
19 Officer does not otherwise know who the owner is, the Animal Control Officer may impound  
20 the animal. The duration of the impoundment of these animals shall be established by the  
21 county board of commissioners, but the duration shall not be less than 72 hours. During the  
22 impoundment period, the Animal Control Officer shall make a reasonable effort to locate the  
23 owner of the animal. If the animal is not reclaimed by its owner during the impoundment  
24 period, the animal shall be disposed of in one of the following ~~manners:~~manners, in the  
25 following preferred sequence:

26           **(1)**    ~~returned~~Returned to the owner;

27           **(2)**    ~~adopted~~Adopted as a pet by a new owner;

28           **(3)**    ~~sold~~Sold to institutions within this State registered by the United States  
29 Department of Agriculture pursuant to the Federal Animal Welfare Act, as  
30 amended; or

31           **(4)**    ~~put to death by a procedure approved by the American Veterinary Medical~~  
32 ~~Association, the Humane Society of the United States or of the American~~  
33 ~~Humane Association.~~Put to death in a legally authorized manner.

34       The Animal Control Officer shall maintain a record of all animals impounded under this section  
35 which shall include the (i) date of impoundment, (ii) the length of impoundment, (iii) the  
36 method of disposal of the ~~animal-animal,~~ and (iv) the name of the person or institution to whom  
37 any animal has been released."

38       **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2010.