

Senate Bill 232

By: Senators Henson of the 41st and Orrock of the 36th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions relative to animal protection, so as to provide for methods for  
3 euthanasia of animals; to provide for training of certain persons authorized to euthanize  
4 animals; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 general provisions relative to animal protection, is amended by revising Code Section  
9 4-11-5.1, relating to euthanasia for dogs and cats by animal shelters or facilities operated for  
10 the collection of stray, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted animals, as follows:

11 "4-11-5.1.

12 (a) ~~The Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, the use of sodium~~  
13 ~~pentobarbital or a derivative of it shall be the exclusive method for euthanasia of dogs and~~  
14 ~~cats by animal shelters or other facilities which are operated for the collection and care of~~  
15 ~~stray, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted animals. A lethal solution shall be used in the~~  
16 ~~following order of preference as follows:~~

17 ~~(1)(A) Intravenous injection by hypodermic needle~~ The preferred method of injection  
18 of all animals shall be intravenous injection by hypodermic needle using venipuncture  
19 of a superficial vein. The lateral saphenous vein should be used whenever possible on  
20 dogs, and the cephalic or femoral vein should be used whenever possible on cats. Such  
21 method shall be used on all dogs and cats except animals too small to allow the  
22 effective performance of a venipuncture or animals in which superficial venous  
23 pressure is insufficient for effective venipuncture;

24 ~~(2) Intraperitoneal injection by hypodermic needle; or (B) If the method described in~~  
25 ~~subparagraph (A) of this paragraph cannot be used, injection may be intraperitoneal~~  
26 ~~injection by hypodermic needle, injecting not less than three times the recommended~~

27 intravenous dosage into the abdominal cavity through the mid-abdominal region. This  
 28 method may be used upon dogs and cats only in animals too small to allow the  
 29 effective performance of a venipuncture or animals in which superficial venous  
 30 pressure is insufficient for effective venipuncture; and

31 ~~(3) Intracardial (C) If the method described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph~~  
 32 cannot be used, injection may be intracardial injection by hypodermic needle; provided,  
 33 however, that intracardial injection by thoracic cavity penetration shall only be used on  
 34 anesthetized unconscious or comatose animals that are too small to allow the effective  
 35 performance of a venipuncture or in which superficial venous pressure is insufficient  
 36 for effective venipuncture; or

37 (2) By oral ingestion of powdered sodium pentobarbital in capsules mixed with food,  
 38 with the animal remaining separated from other animals until dead.

39 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section:

40 ~~(1) A chamber using commercially bottled carbon monoxide gas which was used on July~~  
 41 ~~1, 1990, for euthanasia of dogs and cats by any animal shelter or other facility may~~  
 42 ~~continue to be used for such purposes by such animal shelter or facility if such animal~~  
 43 ~~shelter or facility notifies the Commissioner of Agriculture, in writing, on or before~~  
 44 ~~August 1, 1990, that such a chamber was in use by such animal shelter or facility on July~~  
 45 ~~1, 1990. However, a chamber which causes a change in body oxygen by means of altering~~  
 46 ~~atmospheric pressure or which is connected to an internal combustion engine and uses~~  
 47 ~~the engine exhaust for euthanasia purposes shall not be permitted under any~~  
 48 ~~circumstances; and~~

49 ~~(2) Any substance which is clinically proven to be as humane as sodium pentobarbital~~  
 50 ~~and which has been officially recognized as such by the American Veterinary Medical~~  
 51 ~~Association as of the effective date of this subsection or by later rule or regulation of the~~  
 52 Commissioner may be used in lieu of sodium pentobarbital to perform euthanasia by  
 53 injection on dogs and cats, but succinylcholine chloride, curare, curariform mixtures, or  
 54 any substance which acts as a neuromuscular blocking agent may not be used on a dog  
 55 or cat in lieu of sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia purposes; and

56 (2) A chamber using commercially bottled carbon monoxide gas or a chamber which  
 57 causes a change in body oxygen by means of altering atmospheric pressure or which is  
 58 connected to an internal combustion engine and uses the engine exhaust for euthanasia  
 59 purposes shall not be permitted under any condition.

60 ~~(c) In addition to the exceptions provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section, in~~  
 61 ~~cases of extraordinary circumstance where the dog or cat poses an extreme risk or danger~~  
 62 ~~to the veterinarian, physician, or lay person performing euthanasia, such person shall be~~

63 ~~allowed the use of any other substance or procedure that is humane to perform euthanasia~~  
64 ~~on such dangerous dog or cat.~~

65 ~~(d)~~ A dog or cat may be tranquilized with an approved and humane substance before  
66 euthanasia is performed.

67 ~~(d)~~~~(e)~~ Euthanasia shall be performed by a licensed veterinarian or physician or a lay person  
68 who is properly trained in the proper and humane use of a method of euthanasia; provided,  
69 however, that any such lay person shall have successfully completed a euthanasia  
70 technician certification course approved by the American Humane Association, American  
71 Veterinary Medical Association, or the Humane Society of the United States as of the  
72 effective date of this subsection or approved by later rule or regulation of the  
73 Commissioner. Such lay person shall perform euthanasia under supervision of a licensed  
74 veterinarian or physician. This shall not be construed so as to require that a veterinarian  
75 or physician be present at the time euthanasia is performed.

76 ~~(e)~~~~(f)~~ No dog or cat may be left unattended between the time euthanasia procedures are  
77 first begun and the time death occurs, nor may its body be disposed of until death is  
78 confirmed by a qualified person.

79 ~~(f)~~~~(g)~~ The supervising veterinarian or physician shall be subject to all record-keeping  
80 requirements and inspection requirements of the State Board of Pharmacy pertaining to  
81 sodium pentobarbital and other drugs authorized under subsection (b) of this Code section  
82 and may limit the quantity of possession of sodium pentobarbital and other drugs  
83 authorized to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Code section.

84 ~~(h) This Code section shall not apply to any animal shelter or other facility located in a~~  
85 ~~county having a population of 25,000 or less according to the most recent United States~~  
86 ~~decennial census."~~

87 **SECTION 2.**

88 This Act shall become effective on the first day of the month following the month in which  
89 it is approved by the Governor or becomes law without such approval.

90 **SECTION 3.**

91 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.