



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Veterinary Division

David T. Marshall, DVM
State Veterinarian

October 23, 2009

Mr. William Carter, Director
Bladen County Animal Shelter
County of Bladen
PO Box 189
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT
REQUESTED
7006 2760 0003 0472 2006

Notice of Voluntary Cessation of Gas Chamber Operation Privilege

Re: Violation of Title 02, N.C. Administrative Code Chapter 52J, Section(s) .0601 et seq.

Dear Mr. Carter:

Ms. Pat Sholar, Animal Health Technician with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Animal Welfare Section, Veterinary Division, conducted an inspection of the Bladen County Animal Shelter and discovered that your Carbon Monoxide chamber did not meet the requirements of the NC General Statutes and the NC Administrative Code:

§ 19A-24. Powers of Board of Agriculture.

(5)... If the gas method of euthanasia is approved, rules shall require (i) that only commercially compressed carbon monoxide gas is approved for use, and (ii) that the gas must be delivered in a commercially manufactured chamber that allows for the individual separation of animals.

02 NCAC 52J .0601 CARBON MONOXIDE EQUIPMENT

If carbon monoxide is used for euthanasia in a certified facility, the following requirements shall be met:

... (2) The gas shall be delivered in a commercially manufactured chamber that allows for the individual separation of animals;

You have provided us with written notice that you have ceased use of the chamber on or about 19 August 2009 and that you have agreed to voluntarily cease use of the carbon monoxide chamber to euthanize dogs or cats. This letter confirms this Department's understanding that said cessation is voluntary and shall continue until a CO chamber at the Bladen County Animal Shelter is found to meet the criteria of the General Statutes and Administrative Code and approval for its use is given by the Animal Welfare Section.

If a CO chamber is used to euthanize dogs or cats by your organization before such approval is given by the Animal Welfare Section, it could result in disciplinary action against any Certified Euthanasia Technician using the chamber and as well as against the certification of the facility including the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 19A-40.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Hunter, DVM, MPH". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Lee Hunter, DVM, MPH
Director, Animal Welfare Section

BHB/mwb

cc: Mr. Howard Isley, Assistant Commissioner
Ms. Dianne Whitman, Administrative Officer
Mr. Barry Bloch, Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Pat Sholar, Animal Health Technician