Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Veterinary Division

David T. Marshall, DVM
State Veterinarian

December 20, 2011

Chief Jeffrey Insley
Thomasville Police Department
7 West Guildford Street
Thomasville, North Carolina 27360

Re: Euthanasia of an Animal at Davidson County Animal Shelter by Personnel Not Certified as Euthanasia Technicians

Dear Chief Insley:

During a routine inspection of the above-referenced animal shelter our inspector learned that members of your department had used the shelter's CO chamber to euthanize an injured dog. The Animal Welfare Section of the Veterinary Division, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, is charged with enforcing provisions of the N.C. Animal Welfare and administrative regulations for regulation of euthanasia in animal shelters.

I am writing to you to inquire whether all members of your department have been instructed to request that a certified euthanasia technician employed by the shelter take charge of any severely injured animals they bring there. As you know, 02 NCAC .0601 et seq., includes the prohibition of operating CO chambers in animal shelters by non certified persons.

Would you please confirm that officers Patton and McCrary, and any other members of your force who were not aware of these rules, have been properly briefed on requesting assistance from an authorized shelter employee when an animal they bring to the shelter requires euthanization. When we have received your reply we will affirm that your department is in full compliance with these rules and policies.

Of course, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Lee Hunter, DVM, MPH
Animal Welfare Section

CC : Barry H. Bloch, Assistant Attorney General
North Carolina Department of Justice

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