



Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201 • (404) 657-8387

Tommy Irvin
Commissioner

December 1, 2010

VIA REGULAR MAIL

Re: HB 788 Euthanasia of Dogs and Cats by Animal Shelters

Dear Animal Shelter Director:

Attached you will find a copy of changes to O.C.G.A. §4-11-5.1 that stemmed from the passage of HB 788, sponsored by Representatives Mary Oliver of the 83rd District and Tom Knox of the 24th District. As a result of the passage of this House Bill, O.C.G.A. § 4-11-5.1 was amended to reflect the prohibition of the use of gas chambers to euthanize dogs and cats. Please find a copy of this statute, as amended, attached for your review.

O.C.G.A. § 4-11-5.1(d) now states:

“Under no circumstance shall a chamber using commercially bottled carbon monoxide gas or other lethal gas or a chamber which causes a change in body oxygen by means of altering atmospheric pressure or which is connected to an internal combustion engine and uses the engine exhaust for euthanasia purposes be permitted.”

This prohibition against the use of a gas chamber for euthanasia will become effective on December 31, 2010. If you have any questions regarding this legislation, please consult with your local city/county attorney. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Additionally, moving forward according to 4-11-5.2(b) all operators of animal shelters are required to scan stray, neglected, or abandoned animals for a microchip with a universal scanner within 24 hours and prior to euthanasia. If a microchip is found, the shelter shall make a reasonable effort to contact the owner of the animal. See attached language regarding the new legislation.

Sincerely,

Venessa Sims-Green, Manager
Animal Protection & Equine Health
Georgia Department of Agriculture
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-4914

cc: Dr. Carter Black, State Veterinarian