

**June 30, 2009**  
*PRESS RELEASE*  
**FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

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## **SPALDING COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISES OF CHANGE TO LETHAL INJECTION FOR ANIMAL EUTHANASIA**

Spalding County Animal Shelter Director Brent Foster advises that the Spalding County Animal Shelter, effective July 1, 2009, will begin using properly administered lethal injectable agents, or EBI, to euthanize dogs and cats. Since the last shelter expansion in 1988, the sole means of animal euthanasia in the county has been a euthanasia chamber utilizing commercially bottled carbon monoxide gas, issued to our facility and authorized by the State of Georgia Department of Agriculture.

County officials note the switch to lethal injection as a means of animal euthanasia addresses several issues. The American Veterinary Medical Association has warned that repeated exposure to the carbon monoxide gas used in the previous gas chamber can have long-term effects on shelter workers. Additionally, some studies have shown a slight cost efficiency with lethal injection.

Finally, and most importantly, it is noted that many states now mandate lethal injection as the only allowed method of euthanasia, primarily due to its perception as a more humane act. The practice of gassing has met with increasing resistance in recent years, particularly as the public becomes better educated, resulting in more responsible pet owners and advocates.

Since the injectable is a Schedule II drug, both state and federal law prohibit its storage at an unregistered location. The drug must be kept at the practitioner's current registered location until ready for use, and that practitioner for Spalding County shall be deemed to be Memorial Drive Veterinary Clinic, located at 806 Memorial Drive, Griffin, Georgia. The Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency and the State Veterinarian Office require a maximum of three weeks' supply on hand to amply provide for the County's needs, and any amount exceeding this figure will require prior approval.

For questions or additional information, please contact Spalding County Animal Control Director Brent Foster, at 770-467-4772 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

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