

By Senator Jones

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to euthanasia of animals;  
amending s. 828.058, F.S.; revising the agents  
and method of administering agents used to  
euthanize animals; limiting who may perform  
such procedures; specifying training and  
continuing education requirements for such  
persons; providing criteria for euthanasia  
procedures; providing limitations on the  
storage and transportation of euthanasia  
agents; amending s. 828.065, F.S.; revising  
euthanasia guidelines for the euthanasia of  
animals sold by pet shops; providing an  
effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 828.058, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

828.058 Euthanasia of animals ~~dogs and cats~~.--

(1) Commercially prepared sodium pentobarbital, whose only indication is for euthanasia of animals ~~a sodium pentobarbital derivative~~, or another ~~other~~ agent the Board of Veterinary Medicine may approve by rule shall be the only methods used for euthanasia of dogs and cats by public or private agencies, animal shelters, or other facilities that ~~which~~ are operated for the collection and care of stray, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted animals. A lethal solution shall be administered by any of the following methods or combinations of methods, by a person who is humane and

1 proficient in the method used ~~used in the following order of~~  
2 preference:  
3       (a) Intravenous injection by hypodermic needle;  
4       (b) Intraperitoneal injection by hypodermic needle;  
5       (c) Intracardial injection by hypodermic needle; or  
6       (d) As a last option, a solution or powder given  
7 orally added to food.  
8       (2) Any animal ~~A dog or cat~~ may be tranquilized,  
9 sedated, or anesthetized with an approved and humane substance  
10 before euthanasia is performed. When administering an  
11 intracardial injection, an animal must first be unconscious or  
12 deeply anesthetized. A feral or fractious dog or cat that  
13 cannot be handled humanely using an acceptable level of  
14 restraint must be deeply anesthetized before being euthanized.  
15       (3) When euthanizing an animal other than a dog or  
16 cat, procedures approved in the most recent report of the AVMA  
17 panel on euthanasia must be followed. The person performing  
18 the euthanasia must be humane and proficient in the method  
19 chosen.  
20       (4)(a)(3) Succinylcholine chloride, curare, curariform  
21 mixtures, any substance which acts as a neuromuscular blocking  
22 agent, or a chamber which causes a change in body oxygen may  
23 not be used on a dog or cat for any purpose.  
24       (b) When ~~However, whenever~~ an emergency situation  
25 exists which requires the immediate euthanasia of an injured,  
26 diseased, or dangerous animal, a law enforcement officer, a  
27 veterinarian, ~~or~~ an agent of a local animal control unit, or  
28 any society or association for the prevention of cruelty to  
29 animals or the designee of such an agent may humanely destroy  
30 the animal, as provided in s. 828.05.  
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1           (5)(4)(a) Euthanasia shall be performed only by a  
2 licensed veterinarian, a certified veterinary technician, or  
3 an employee or agent of a public or private agency, animal  
4 shelter, or other facility that is operated for the collection  
5 and care of stray, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted animals,  
6 provided the employee or agent has successfully completed a  
7 24-hour ~~16-hour~~ euthanasia technician certification course and  
8 has maintained the continuing education course requirements in  
9 euthanasia. The curriculum for such course must be approved  
10 by the Board of Veterinary Medicine and must include, at a  
11 minimum, the pharmacology, proper administration, and storage  
12 of euthanasia solutions; federal and state laws regulating the  
13 storage and accountability of euthanasia solutions; euthanasia  
14 technician stress management; and proper disposal of  
15 euthanized animals, and must require actual performance of  
16 euthanasia. For persons who attend euthanasia certification  
17 workshops to be certified through the Florida Animal Control  
18 Association, the person teaching the course must first be  
19 approved by and certified through the Florida Animal Control  
20 Association Board of Directors. ~~An employee or agent~~  
21 ~~performing euthanasia before October 1, 1993, must obtain~~  
22 ~~certification by October 1, 1994.~~ An employee or agent who  
23 ~~begins performing euthanasia on or after October 1, 1993, must~~  
24 obtain certification before performing any euthanasia.  
25 However, a certified veterinarian technician who is an  
26 employee or agent as defined in the subsection, may perform  
27 euthanasia without completing the certification course  
28 required by this subsection. Euthanasia must be performed in a  
29 humane and proficient manner.  
30           (b) Effective October 1, 1999, persons who are  
31 certified as euthanasia technicians in accordance with

1 previous statutory requirements for 16-hour certification must  
2 obtain, by October 1, 2000, an additional 8 hours of  
3 certification training that requires actual performance of  
4 euthanasia.

5 (c) Effective October 1, 1999, euthanasia technicians  
6 must obtain a minimum of 8 hours of continuing education  
7 pertaining to euthanasia every 2 years in order to maintain  
8 current certification status.

9 (d) A minimum of two persons must attend to the  
10 routine euthanasia of a dog or cat. However, only the person  
11 administering the drug must be certified.

12 (e) In emergencies, in order to prevent unnecessary  
13 suffering of an animal, euthanasia may be performed by one  
14 person.

15 (f)(b) No animal ~~dog or cat~~ may be left unattended  
16 between the time euthanasia procedures are first begun,  
17 beginning with the administration of any tranquilizers,  
18 sedatives, or anesthetics, and the time death is confirmed  
19 occurs, nor may its body be disposed of until death is  
20 confirmed by a qualified person. Death must be confirmed by  
21 the presence of rigor mortis; the absence of a heart beat,  
22 determined through the use of a stethoscope, accompanied by  
23 the absence of corneal reflex; or the absence of a heart beat  
24 determined by cardiac puncture.

25 (6) A certified euthanasia technician may transport,  
26 but may not store, sodium pentobarbital in authorized vehicles  
27 for the purpose of emergency field euthanasia, if the drug is  
28 kept in a securely locked and substantially constructed box  
29 that is secured to the vehicle chassis and is inside the cab  
30 or operator section of the vehicle and if the drug is removed  
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1 from the vehicle and stored in the designated place whenever  
2 the technician is off duty.

3 ~~(7)(5)~~ The state attorney may bring an action to  
4 enjoin any violation of this act.

5 ~~(8)(6)~~ Any person who violates the provisions of this  
6 act is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable  
7 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

8 Section 2. Section 828.065, Florida Statutes, is  
9 amended to read:

10 828.065 Euthanasia of animals offered for sale by pet  
11 shops.--

12 (1)(a) An ~~A warm-blooded animal, except one held as~~  
13 ~~food for another animal,~~ offered for sale, or obtained for  
14 sale by a pet shop may be euthanized only by administering  
15 commercially prepared sodium pentobarbital whose only  
16 indication is for euthanasia of animals, or another agent the  
17 Board of Veterinary Medicine approves, by rule, ~~a sodium~~  
18 ~~pentobarbital derivative, or a substance or procedure which~~  
19 ~~acts on the central nervous system and is clinically proven to~~  
20 ~~be humane.~~

21 (b) A lethal solution must be administered by any of  
22 the following methods or combinations of methods in the  
23 ~~following order of preference:~~

- 24 1. By intravenous injection by hypodermic needle;  
25 2. By intraperitoneal injection by hypodermic needle;  
26 3. By intracardial injection by hypodermic needle; or  
27 4. As a last option, by solution or powder given  
28 orally ~~added to food.~~

29 (2) An animal may be tranquilized, sedated, or  
30 anesthetized with an approved and, humane substance before  
31 euthanasia is performed. An animal must be unconscious or

1 deeply anesthetized before being given an intracardial  
2 injection.

3 (3) When euthanizing any animal other than a dog or  
4 cat, procedures approved in the most recent report of the AVMA  
5 panel on euthanasia must be followed. The person performing  
6 the euthanasia must be humane and proficient in the method  
7 chosen.

8 (4)(3) Succinylcholine chloride, curare, a curariform  
9 mixture, a substance which acts as a neuromuscular blocking  
10 agent, or a chamber which causes a change in body oxygen,  
11 except a chamber which uses commercially bottled carbon  
12 monoxide gas, may not be used on an a warm-blooded animal.

13 (5)(4)(a) Euthanasia must be performed by a licensed  
14 veterinarian, a certified veterinary technician, or a  
15 certified euthanasia technician or layperson who is humane and  
16 proficient in the method used.

17 (b) An animal may not be left unattended between the  
18 time euthanasia procedures are commenced, beginning with the  
19 administration of any tranquilizers, sedatives, or  
20 anesthetics, and the time death is confirmed occurs, nor may  
21 its body be disposed of until death is confirmed by a licensed  
22 veterinarian, a certified veterinary technician, or a  
23 certified euthanasia technician ~~qualified person.~~

24 (6)(5) The state attorney may bring an action to  
25 enjoin a violation of this section.

26 (7)(6) A person who violates this section is guilty of  
27 a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in  
28 s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, or is guilty of felony animal  
29 cruelty, in violation of s. 828.12, punishable as provided in  
30 s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

31 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Revises provisions relating to the euthanasia of animals. Revises the types of agents permitted and the permitted methods of administering those agents. Limits the persons who may euthanize animals and specifies training and continuing education requirements for such persons. Provides limitations on the storage and transportation of such euthanasia agents. Also revises such provisions relating to the euthanasia of animals sold by pet shops. (See bill for details.)