



**THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF
VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

**ALABAMA VETERINARY
PRACTICE ACT**



2018

- (b) CETs will receive a certificate which will expire on December 31 of each year. The certificate will be displayed on the wall of the euthanasia room of the RAEF.

(10) **RECERTIFICATION OF EUTHANASIA TECHNICIANS:**

- (a) CETs must submit on or before December 31 of each year an application for recertification with the following information:
 1. Proof of satisfactory completion of an approved euthanasia course or refresher course within the previous three years.
 2. Proof of employment at an approved RAEF.
 3. A sworn affidavit that he or she does not have any drug-related convictions, and which discloses any pending drug-related criminal charges.

(11) **CERTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR EUTHANASIA TECHNICIANS:**

- (a) The CET administering euthanasia solutions or supervising others in training is fully responsible for all actions that take place in the euthanasia area.
- (b) Each animal shall be held with the least amount of restraint necessary but human safety shall always be the primary concern. The use of chemical restraint is the option and the decision of the CET.
- (c) No animal shall be left unattended between the time euthanasia procedures are first begun and the time that death occurs, nor may the body of the animal be disposed of until death has been confirmed by a licensed veterinarian, licensed veterinary technician or a CET.
- (d) Injection techniques for euthanasia solutions and chemical restraint drugs:
 1. Intravenous injections: The CET shall be able to perform intravenous injections humanely. Intravenous injections on cats are not required but if performed shall meet the standards for dogs.
 2. Intraperitoneal injections: The CET shall be able to efficiently insert the needle into the proper injection sites. After the injection the animal shall be placed in an appropriate enclosure separated from other animals. *Exception: Litters of less than six weeks of age may be housed in the same enclosure after the injection.* The front of the enclosure shall be covered with a cloth or other material that can keep the cage isolated from the normal activities in the euthanasia area. The animal shall be observed regularly until death occurs.
 3. Intracardiac injections are acceptable but can only be used on unconscious animals.
 4. No other injection procedure for euthanasia solution is permitted in any type of animal.
 5. Chemical restraint drugs administered prior to euthanasia solutions may be given intravenously, subcutaneously, intramuscularly or orally.

- (e) Acceptable euthanasia alternatives to the use of injectable agents:
1. Inhalant anesthetics
 2. Oral euthanasia solution
- (f) The CET must understand the concern for individual animal needs:
1. Injected animals shall be lowered to the surface on which they are being held after they have collapsed. Injected animals shall not be permitted to drop or otherwise collapse without human support except when the animal is restrained by a mechanical restraint device.
 2. All animals shall be handled with minimum stress while maximizing personal safety. Animals that cannot be handled with a limited amount of physical restraint shall be given an approved chemical restraint drug. Under these circumstances, if the facility has insufficient chemical restraint drugs available, it should contact the consulting veterinarian. Handling includes all aspects of moving an animal from one area to another.
 3. Animals awaiting euthanasia shall not be placed in cages or kennels with other breeds or species that are incompatible with the animal in question. The animals shall not be overcrowded in any cage or kennel.
- (g) The CET must have:
1. The ability to verify death. Each animal shall be checked to verify death. The verification is the responsibility of the CET and shall be made by physical examination of the individual animal. One or more of the following three indicators of death shall be met:
 - (i) Complete lack of palpebral, corneal and pupillary reflexes, complete lack of heartbeat determined by use of a stethoscope and complete lack of respiration; or
 - (ii) Cardiac standstill as indicated by a complete lack of movement of the previously placed Intracardiac needle; or
 - (iii) Rigormortis.
 2. The ability to handle difficult situations if they arise during the euthanasia process.
 3. The ability to communicate with handlers during the euthanasia process.
- (h) Use of Assistants:
1. To assure safe and humane euthanasia technique, a minimum of two persons shall be required for any intravenous injection. One person shall be a CET and one or more persons shall be handler(s). The handler does not have to be a CET but the handler should be trained in human safety and in animal handling techniques.
 2. Intraperitoneal injections and Intracardiac injections may be administered by a CET without a handler to unconscious animals.