

April 7, 2011

**Notice to All CAETs
and Veterinarians**

Acepromazine and Rompun for Pre-Euthanasia Restraint/No CAET Sedation

As you are aware, Act 764 of the 2010 Louisiana Legislative Session took effect June 30, 2010 and states “euthanasia by intracardiac injection on cats and dogs shall be prohibited unless the animal is unconscious or rendered completely unconscious and insensitive to pain through the injection of an anesthetic.” Such prohibition is applicable to animal control shelters and their animals located on site as well as their animals which may be transported to a veterinary clinic for euthanasia. Again, the performance of euthanasia by intracardiac injection in violation of the new law by a Certified Animal Euthanasia Technician (CAET) and/or veterinarian is sanctionable.

The Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine (LBVM) received information with regards to a scenario from an animal control facility regarding “using a one-half the recommended dose of Sodium Pentobarbital whereby feral/fractious animals are sedated intramuscularly. Once sedated, they are given the full dose of Sodium Pentobarbital for euthanasia. Intravenous and intraperitoneal routes are most commonly used.”

Please be advised that the above scenario is not legal for two reasons. First, with regards to a CAET (Lead status or otherwise), the use of any drug for purposes of “sedation,” or any form of anesthesia, is beyond the permissible scope of euthanasia practice for this certificate holder. In short, a CAET is certified to perform euthanasia, but cannot administer “sedation” which is a form of anesthesia. If an animal control facility’s animal must be sedated, then a Louisiana licensed veterinarian must perform this service. However, Acepromazine or Rompun (both non-controlled drugs) may be used by a CAET for restraint purposes of a feral/fractious animal prior to euthanasia.

Second, the administration of Sodium Pentobarbital via an “intramuscular route” is an off label use for CAETs and veterinarians alike and, therefore, illegal. Product information from the manufacturer on the drug packaging itself states that it is “For Intravenous or Intracardiac Use.” The product information label also states that each mL contains “18% propylene glycol.”