

April 7, 2011

**Notice to All CAETs
and Veterinarians**

Act 764 regarding Animal Control Shelter Euthanasia, effective June 30, 2010.

Although we are all presumed to know the law, it has come to the Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine's (LBVM) attention that perhaps some Certified Animal Euthanasia Technicians (CAETs) and/or veterinarians may be unaware of a new law recently passed by the 2010 Louisiana Legislature. Please take notice that 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. The performance of euthanasia by intracardiac injection in violation of the new law by a CAET and/or veterinarian is sanctionable.

According to the clear wording of the new law, the term "*unconscious*" has the literal meaning of lacking awareness and the capacity for sensory perception; involuntary. In addition, the clear wording "*rendered completely unconscious and insensitive to pain through the injection of an anesthetic*" means general anesthesia by injection and not mere sedation.

The prohibition in Act 764 does not apply to the practice standards of veterinary medicine for veterinarians and CAETs performing euthanasia by intracardiac injection in veterinary practice sites other than animal control shelters and/or on animal control shelter animals. Temporary transfer of ownership of the animal to the veterinarian by the animal control shelter for euthanasia by cardiac injection is a violation of the law.

The euthanasia by intracardiac injection on cats and dogs will continue to be taught in the CAET training course, however, special note will be made regarding the lawful limited use of this procedure.

In closing, do not confuse the effective date of the above prohibition with the different effective date of the prohibition for euthanasia by carbon monoxide gas chambers which begins on January 1, 2013 (also set forth in Act 764).