

1 SB172
2 126509-1
3 By Senators Marsh, Dial, Allen, Williams, Taylor, Scofield,
4 Smith, Sanford, McGill, Waggoner, Orr, Irons, Beasley,
5 Fielding, Singleton, Reed, Blackwell, Ward, Bussman, Brooks,
6 Holtzclaw, Smitherman, Bedford, Brewbaker and Beason
7 RFD: Judiciary
8 First Read: 08-MAR-11

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the use of gas chambers is an authorized method of euthanasia for dogs and cats in animal shelters.

This bill would prohibit the use of gas chambers for the euthanasia of dogs and cats after December 31, 2011.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Section 34-29-131 of the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the euthanasia of dogs and cats in animal shelters; to prohibit the use of gas chambers for the euthanasia of dogs and cats; and to provide a delayed effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known as "Beckham's Act."

1 Section 2. Section 34-29-131 of the Code of Alabama
2 1975, is amended to read as follows:

3 "§34-29-131.

4 "(a) The board ~~may~~ shall provide by rule that sodium
5 pentobarbital, a sodium pentobarbital derivative, or other
6 ~~agent~~ authorized injectable agents that ~~acts~~ act on the
7 central nervous system shall be the only ~~injectable agents for~~
8 means of euthanasia of dogs and cats at facilities approved by
9 the board that are operated for the collection and care of
10 stray, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted dogs and cats.

11 "(b) The board shall promulgate rules providing for
12 the use of carbon monoxide, CO, and inhalant anesthetics as an
13 acceptable alternative to the injectable agents for individual
14 animals or mass euthanasia in small animals other than dogs or
15 cats. Rules shall include provisions for the type of chamber
16 and gas used, training and inspection requirements, humane
17 comfort of the animals, and safety precautions for personnel.

18 "(c) Euthanasia shall be performed only by a
19 licensed veterinarian or an employee or agent of a facility
20 approved by the board that is operated for the collection and
21 care of stray, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted animals,
22 provided the employee or agent has successfully completed a
23 euthanasia technician certification course. The curriculum for
24 the course shall be approved by the board and shall include,
25 at a minimum, all of the following:

26 "(1) The pharmacology, proper administration, and
27 storage of euthanasia solutions.

1 "(2) Federal and state laws regulating the storage
2 and accountability of scheduled drugs.

3 "(3) OSHA Safety and Material Safety Data Sheet
4 Regulations.

5 "(4) Euthanasia stress management.

6 "(5) Proper disposal of euthanized animals.

7 "(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, a licensed
8 veterinary technician, in accordance with Section 34-29-94,
9 and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, who is an employee
10 or agent of a licensed veterinarian or animal shelter as
11 defined in Section 34-29-130, may perform euthanasia without
12 completing the certification course required by subsection
13 (c).

14 "(e) Within 30 days after January 1, 2012, any
15 animal shelters operated for the collection and care of stray,
16 neglected, abandoned, or unwanted animals, which operated a
17 gas chamber prior to that date shall have dismantled and
18 removed its gas chamber and shall provide documentation to
19 that effect to the board."

20 Section 3. This act shall become effective on
21 December 31, 2011.