

**[ DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 13, May 18, 2010 ]**

**REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE EUTHANASIA OF ANIMALS**

This Administrative Order shall be known as the Revised Rules and Regulations on the Euthanasia of Animals amending DA Administrative Order 21 issued on April 26, 1999 pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the Animal Welfare Act of 1998, as well as Section 7 (9) of Republic Act No. 9482, otherwise known as the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007.

SECTION 1. Basic Policy - It is the policy of the state to protect and promote the welfare of animals in the Philippines and to monitor the strict implementation and observance of R.A. No. 8485 as well as pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9482 to ensure that only the acceptable and most humane manner of killing animals as observed under given circumstances.

This Revised Rules and Regulations on the euthanasia of animals takes into consideration the freedom of animals from physical discomfort and pain and their freedom from fear and distress during the conduct of euthanasia.

SECTION 2. Objective – This Administrative Order is established to set standards and to regulate all activities relating to the conduct of euthanasia of animals.

SECTION 3. Scope - This Administrative Order shall cover all persons, including government and non-government institutions, private companies or organizations, associations and the like including peoples organizations, who in one way or another may be handling animals either as pets, part of their profession, functions, advocacy or business. This rule shall cover all animals while alive.

Euthanasia of food animals for purposes of slaughter shall be governed by DA A.O. No. 18 series of 2008 on Rules and Regulation on Humane Handling in the Slaughter of Animals for Food.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms - For purposes of this Rules and Regulations, the following terms shall be used:

**Animal** refers to every non-human species of animal both domestic and wild including but not limited to dogs, cats, livestock and fowl.

**Barbiturate** refers to a group of organic compounds derived from barbituric acid that depresses the nervous system and is used to induce apathy and sleep. In high doses, is also used as an anesthetic.

**Domestic Animal** refers to an animal that has been bred and raised to live in or about the habitation of humans and is dependent on people for food and shelter.

**Escaped Animal** refers to any animal that is outside its designated cage, corral, yard or enclosure without the control of its owner or handler.

**Euthanasia** refers to the process of inducing humane and painless death to animals.

**Sharpshooter** refers to a skilled marksman in the use of a firearm.

**S-2** refers to a license issued by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), authorizing veterinarians to prescribe and/or make use of appropriate dangerous drug preparations.

**Veterinary Officer** refers to a licensed veterinarian employed by the government as veterinarian of the municipality, city, province, local units, or Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Units for the purpose of dealing with animal welfare.

**Wild Animal** refers to an untamed non-domesticated animal, moving and unrestrained in its natural environment/habitat.

**Zoo Animal** refers to any wild animal kept in close or open confinement usually for public viewing.

## SECTION 5. General Principles –

5.1 Section 6 of R.A. 8485 prohibits the killing of any animal except as provided in the same law. However, killing shall be done through humane procedures at all times which shall mean the use of the most scientific methods available as may be determined and approved by the Committee on Animal Welfare. Such methods shall be identified in these rules.

5.2 Euthanasia shall only be allowed under the following conditions or circumstances and performed by a duly licensed veterinarian:

5.2.a When the animal is afflicted with an incurable or communicable disease as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;

5.2.b When the killing is deemed necessary to put an end to the misery suffered by the animals as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian.

5.2.c When done on purposes of animal population control.

5.2.d When the animal is killed after it has been used in authorized research or experiments.

5.2.e When done to prevent imminent danger to the life or limb of human being.

5.2.f Any other grounds analogous to the above as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian.

### 5.3 Persons authorized to Perform Euthanasia

The conduct of euthanasia of animal is vested on the duly licensed veterinarian.

### 5.4 Proper Euthanasia Procedure

5.4.a In case a firearm is used, the following are required: 1) only licensed firearms shall be used. 2) Only sharpshooters and members of the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agency deputized by the Bureau of Animal Industry and authorized by the concerned local government unit.

5.4.b The person performing euthanasia should have the technical competence. This should be performed by a duly licensed veterinarian.

5.4.c The preferred method of euthanasia shall always be by injection.

5.4.d Euthanasia shall be done rapidly and humanely and must occur with the least fear, anxiety, pain and distress to the animal. Consideration must be given to how the animal is handled during the procedure.

5.4.e Euthanasia shall always be done away from public view and away from other animals.

5.4.f In case barbiturates are used, veterinarians involved shall secure an S2 license from the PDEA.

5.4.g The veterinarian shall ensure that the animal is dead. He shall be guided by the following signs of death:

5.4.g.a absence of respiration

5.4.g.b absence of heartbeat

5.4.g.c dilation of the pupils

## SECTION 6. APPROVED METHODS OF EUTHANASIA

Euthanasia shall only be performed by a duly licensed veterinarian.

### 6.1 Non-inhalant (Barbiturate)

6.1.a Intravenous injection of a barbiturate is the preferred method for euthanasia in animals.

6.1.b Intraperitoneal and intracardiac injection of the barbiturate may be used in situations when an intravenous injection would be distressful or even dangerous. This method is better when the animal is heavily sedated, unconscious or anesthetized.

6.1.c Neuromuscular blocking agents such as Magnesium sulfate or Potassium chloride which are administered to stop the heart must be used only after the administration of Tiletamine with Zolazepam or Ketamine with Diazepam or other sedative combinations.

### 6.2 Inhalants

#### 6.2.a Carbon Monoxide

6.2.a.a Carbon monoxide produced by any gasoline powered engine or commercially compressed carbon monoxide may be used.

6.2.a.b The chamber shall be designed that the animals inside are not too crowded and could be viewed from the outside.

#### 6.2.b Carbon Dioxide