

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PHARMACY QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION
Guidance Document**

Title:	Euthanasia Training Program Guidelines for Animal Control Agencies and Humane Societies
Reference:	RCW 69.50.310 Sodium pentobarbital—Registration of humane societies and animal control agencies for use in animal control. RCW 69.41.080 Animal control—Rules for possession and use of legend drugs. WAC 246-945-354 Animal control and humane society registration. WAC 246-945-503(2)(b), and (4) Authorized personnel.
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Approved:	Tim Lynch, PharmD, MS, FABC, FASHP, Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission Chair

This document establishes guidelines for euthanasia training programs seeking to meet substantially equivalent training requirements as a commission-approved program.

The instructor of the training program must be a licensed veterinarian. The program must use a manual approved by the commission or approved by a nationally recognized authority on euthanasia. The training cannot be less than four hours in length. The training will hold a final examination of the course where the passing score is not less than seventy-five percent correct.

The training program is required to include both didactic and practical training to include but not limited to the following topics:

- (a) Anatomy and physiology:
 - (1) Methods of euthanasia;
 - (2) Routes of drug administration;
 - (3) Use of sedatives;
 - (4) Drug dosing;
 - (5) Use of restraints; and
 - (6) Process and verification of death;
- (b) Pharmacology of the drugs;
- (c) Indications, contraindications, and adverse effects;
- (d) Human hazards;
- (e) Disposal of medical waste (needles, syringes, etc.);
- (f) Recordkeeping and security requirements; and

(g) Applicable federal and state laws and rules.

Training programs will retain a list of persons who have successfully completed the program for a minimum of two years and issue certificates of completion identifying the recipient, name, date, and signature of the veterinarian(s) who lead the training.

A person who has successfully completed a training program that meets these guidelines is deemed to have completed an approved program. A humane society or animal control agency may designate a person who can document completion of approved training as *authorized personnel*.

Under the *Sodium Pentobarbital* registration, authorized personnel are defined as a person trained and approved by the humane society or animal control agency to possess and administer approved legend drugs and controlled substances to euthanize injured, sick, homeless, or unwanted domestic pets and animals.

The commission will maintain a registry of approved training programs and manuals. Interested persons may request a copy of the registry by contacting the commission office.