



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Todd P. Haymore
Commissioner

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Animal & Food Industry Services
Office of Animal Care and Health Policy
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Information Regarding Humane Animal Euthanasia Training

The Office of Animal Care and Health Policy (OACHP) provides euthanasia training at no cost for pound and shelter employees. Those who are not currently certified and want to become certified to perform euthanasia and those whose certification have lapsed and want to continue to perform euthanasia are required to complete a VDACS approved 8 hour training session prior to becoming certified to perform euthanasia. **Individuals are not certified during training.** Each class is limited to a total of 20 participants. All participants will be provided with handouts and required documentation to verify completion of the course. **Participants should bring a calculator with them to class.**

Training will be held on a monthly rotational basis at VDACS Regional Offices and Laboratories throughout the Commonwealth. To register for upcoming humane animal euthanasia training course please contact Dr. Rachel Touroo at 804-786-2483 or Rachel.Touroo@vdacs.virginia.gov.

Participants shall provide one or more dogs and/or cats, for which the appropriate holding period has expired, for the hands-on/practical portion of the training (**these animals will be euthanized**). All animals to be euthanized must be accompanied by their original intake record and must have exceeded the appropriate holding period. The Office of Animal Care and Health Policy will coordinate with participants to ensure that we have enough animals for the hands-on/practical portion of the course depending on the number of participants registered. In general, every participant/locality should plan on making at least one animal available for training. Our office would encourage localities to try to avoid bringing animals that would be negatively affected by a change in their environment, as we do not want to cause any undue stress prior to euthanasia.

Participants will be required to provide appropriately sized crates or cages for the animals that they will be bringing with them to euthanize, as well as provide them with adequate care that morning prior to euthanasia. Participants will need to bring food, litter, litter pans, dishes, and other items that maybe needed as appropriate for that animal. Water can be obtained at the training facilities. Participants will also be required to bring appropriately sized muzzles for the animals to be euthanized.