

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

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The newsletter has been revised. Please disregard the prior version.

Rabies Update

Last year was a record year in terms of the total number of confirmed rabies cases and samples submitted to the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) laboratory. There were a total of 210 animals confirmed to have rabies in 2007 in Michigan including 199 bats, five skunks, two foxes, two cats, one dog, and one horse. Unfortunately, no one knows why there were so many cases last year.

Thus far, it appears that 2008 will be an active year as well. As of June 16, 2008, there were 22 animals including 14 bats, six skunks, and two foxes which is comparable with the number of confirmed positives at this time last year. The lab has actually received more samples this year compared to last year. As of May 31, 2008, the lab received 1038 specimens compared to 877 specimens received at the same time last year. For current totals and geographical distributions of rabies positive animals, go to:

- www.michigan.gov/rabies,
- click on "Testing Tables and Maps,"
- click on "Maps of Rabies Positive Animals in Michigan,"
- and then click on the Michigan map image next to the caption "Michigan Rabies Positive Cases, 2008."

You can help prevent yourself and others from rabies exposure by:

- Educating owners to have all dogs, cats, ferrets, and horses vaccinated against rabies.
- Educating the public to avoid wild animals and to bat-proof homes.
- Having all individuals working regularly with animals receive the Pre-Exposure Rabies Vaccines.
 - The vaccine is given at day 0, 7, and 21 or 28
 - Vaccinated individuals should have their titers checked every 2 years
 - To find a clinic offering rabies vaccination, go to: www.cdc.gov, click "Traveler's Health", then click "Yellow Fever Vaccination Clinics," then click on the map of Michigan.

- Using protective equipment and proper animal restraint techniques to safely handle animals to minimize bites/exposure.
- Following the bite protocol sheet whenever a person or animal may have been exposed to a potential rabies vector animal. You may access this document by going to:
 - www.michigan.gov/mda-licensing
 - clicking on "Animal Related Licensing,"
 - clicking on "Animal Shelters,"
 - and then clicking on "Rabies and Animals (Mammals) Bite Protocol Sheet."



If you have further questions or concerns, feel free to call the Michigan Department of Agriculture at: 517-373-1077 or the Michigan Department of Community Health at: 517-335-8165.

Euthanasia at Animal Shelters

Euthanasia has become a hot issue. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) requires all animal shelters to euthanize animals humanely. Like most states, the Michigan Department of Agriculture accepts the *AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) Guidelines on Euthanasia* as the authority on humane euthanasia and expects all individuals administering euthanasia to follow these guidelines. This document details different euthanasia methods, explaining what methods are humane and for what animals certain methods are best. This document is reviewed and revised every few years. The current version was revised in 2007 and is available on the department's website. To access the document, go to:

- www.michigan.gov/mda-licensing,
- click on "Animal Related Licensing,"
- click on "Animal Shelters," scroll down to and
- click on "2007 Report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia."

Most animal shelters use injectable barbiturates, typically sodium pentobarbital, to euthanize animals. Per the guidelines, "Intravenous injection of a barbituric acid derivative is the preferred method for euthanasia of dogs, cats, other small animals, and horses. Intraperitoneal (abdominal) injection may be used in situations when an intravenous injection would be distressful or even dangerous. Intracardiac injection must only be used if the animal is heavily sedated, unconscious, or anesthetized." When using barbiturates, it is only considered humane to euthanize an animal via intravenous injection, intraperitoneal injection, or, if heavily sedated, anesthetized, or unconscious, via intracardiac injection. Intracardiac injection without heavy sedation or anesthesia is not acceptable.

The Michigan Department of Community Health regulates the use of injectable barbiturates. For a shelter to be able to possess and use sodium pentobarbital, the shelter must obtain both a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) controlled substance registration and a Michigan controlled substance license. For a shelter to be granted a Michigan controlled substance license, the shelter must also submit documentation of all employees of the shelter that have been trained to administer euthanasia with sodium pentobarbital. A shelter must have at least

one employee properly trained to administer sodium pentobarbital. The shelter must submit the names and addresses of all individuals that have completed training, as well as the names of the veterinarians that trained each individual, to the Michigan Department of Community Health on a designated form. This form is the same form used to apply for the Michigan controlled substance license. Documentation of all individuals trained to administer euthanasia must be submitted not only when applying for a license, but every six months thereafter. To access this form, go to: ww.michigan.gov/healthlicense, click on "Pharmacy," then scroll down and click on "Sodium Pentobarbital Use Application." To obtain a DEA license, call 1-800-882-9539.

The Michigan Department of Community Health has training requirements that must be satisfied before an employee of an animal shelter can euthanize. All employees of an animal shelter that wish to administer sodium pentobarbital must receive at least eight hours of training by a licensed veterinarian. Training must include lecture, self-study instruction, and "hands-on" experience. The veterinarian must teach the individual how to competently administer sodium pentobarbital intravenously, intraperitoneally, and intracardially, as well as how to determine death. For more information on training to administer sodium pentobarbital or on obtaining a Michigan controlled substance license, contact the Michigan Department of Community Health, Board of Pharmacy at 517-335-0918.

A few shelters use carbon dioxide to euthanize animals. Carbon dioxide is considered a humane method of euthanasia. However, it can only be used on small lab animals, birds, cat, small dogs, rabbits, mink, zoo animals, amphibians, fish, swine, and some reptiles. **It is not approved for medium to giant breed dogs.** While there are no specific requirements addressing training for employees of a shelter to administer carbon dioxide, it is advised that the shelter work with their veterinarian to ensure that individuals are properly trained in the use of carbon dioxide as a euthanasia agent. Per the *AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia* guidelines:

- "Compressed CO₂ gas in cylinders is the only recommended source of carbon dioxide because the inflow to the chamber can be regulated precisely.
- Species should be separated and chambers should not be overcrowded.

- With an animal in the chamber, an optimal flow rate should displace at least 20 percent of the chamber volume per minute.
- Gas flow should be maintained for at least one minute after apparent clinical death.”
- Each animal must be assessed to confirm death
- If an animal is not dead after receiving CO₂, another method of euthanasia must be used to completely euthanize the animal.

There are also a few shelters that use carbon monoxide to euthanize animals. Carbon monoxide is a humane euthanasia agent, but it is only approved for small animals including dogs, cats, rodents, mink, chinchillas, birds, reptiles, amphibians, zoo animals, and rabbits. Like carbon dioxide, there are no specific training requirements in the Law. Therefore, it is advised that the shelter work with their veterinarian to ensure that individuals are properly trained in the use of carbon monoxide for euthanasia. **It is important to note that carbon monoxide is quite toxic (long term exposure can result in heart disease & birth defects) it poses a danger to staff.** As such, anyone using carbon monoxide should be aware that there are federal and state occupational safety and health (OSHA/MIOSHA) regulations regarding the use of carbon monoxide which must be followed. You may call 517-487-4996 for federal regulations. You may call 517-322-1814 for state regulations. Per the *AVMA Guidelines of Euthanasia*, a shelter wishing to use carbon monoxide to euthanize must:

- See that staff is properly trained and fully understand the danger in its use.
- Make sure that the CO chamber is “of the highest quality construction” and that it allows “for separation of individual animals.”
- Make sure the chamber is used in a well ventilated area. The guidelines advise using the chamber outside. If the chamber is used indoors, the room must have CO monitors in the room where the chamber is used.
- Make sure the chamber is “well lit” and that animals being euthanized can be easily viewed.
- Make sure that the flow rate be adequate to rapidly achieve a uniform carbon monoxide concentration of at least 6 percent after animals are placed in the chamber.

Please also note that electrocution is illegal and that drowning is not humane.



Large Carnivore and Wolf-Dog Reminder

The Wolf-Dog Cross Act and Large Carnivore Act require that a veterinarian, law enforcement agency, or other permitting agency submit certification that a wolf-dog or large carnivore has died to the Michigan Department of Agriculture within 20 business days of death. Over the past few years, the department has not received any certifications of death. As of April 20, 2007, records with the Michigan Department of Agriculture indicate that there are 6 bears, 29 wolf-dogs, and 1 cougar permitted within the state. (Please see the map). If you have wolf-dogs or large carnivores permitted in your jurisdiction, please remember to submit a certification of death. If you have had a permitted wolf-dog or large carnivore die over the past few years and have not yet submitted certification of death, please do so now so that we may keep our records current. Certification may be sent to: Michigan Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909. Also, as local law enforcement is required to notify MDA of all Wolf-Dogs and Large Carnivores permitted within their jurisdiction, if you have an animal that is permitted that does not appear to be noted on our map, please submit the name and address of the permittee as well as the microchip number of the animal. You may also view this map by visiting:

- www.michigan.gov/mda,
- clicking on “Animal Health,”
- and then clicking on “Wolf-Dogs and Large Carnivores.”



Great Idea!

Since a dog must be licensed in the jurisdiction where the owner resides, several shelters are trying to figure out what can be done to help ensure that dogs adopted from the shelter by owners from other jurisdictions are properly licensed. One shelter in Michigan has come up with an excellent solution. The shelter requires the adopter to leave a deposit at the shelter at the time of adoption agreeing to have the dog licensed within the required time frame (within 30 days for animals four months of age and older at the time of adoption, or within 30 days from the time the animal turns four months of age if younger than four months old at the time of adoption.). Once the adopter submits proof to that shelter that the dog was adequately licensed, the deposit is returned to the adopter.

Does Your Shelter Have a Universal Scanner?

The Michigan Department of Agriculture expects all animal shelters to scan animals for microchips. When scanned by a microchip scanner, a scanner releases a frequency which activates the microchip allowing it to be read. A microchip company name appears as well as a number which correspond to an owner's information with the company's registry. Unfortunately, there are different types of microchips that only respond to certain frequencies. There are microchips that only respond to a 134.2 kHz frequency and microchips that only respond to a 125 kHz scanner. If animal with a 134.2 kHz microchip is scanned with a 125 kHz scanner, the animal's microchip number can't be read. Thus, the owner's information can't be found. The International Standards organization (ISO), which creates global standards, has advised that the global standard for a microchip now be 134.2 kHz. This means that all microchips implanted into animals throughout the world should be activated at a frequency of 134.2 kHz so that an animal's microchip can be readable in any country in the world. However, there are no laws in the United States requiring that this frequency be used. While animals in other countries are implanted with the ISO 134.2 kHz standard, it is estimated that 98 % of all animals currently living in the Unites States are implanted with the 125 kHz microchip. The good news is that there are now universal scanners, also known as forward-and backward-reading scanners, which can read all of the microchip frequencies. If your shelter does not

have one of these scanners, please consider obtaining one of the devices. It could help to reunite more pets to the owners. Home Again makes a universal scanner called Universal Worldscan. To obtain the scanner, call 1-888-HOME-AGAIN. Bayer also makes a universal scanner called the ResQ Scanner. Bayer has been giving away the scanners to shelters over the past year and they still have a few complimentary scanners available. To obtain this scanner, call 913-268-1870.

For more information on microchips, including information that you can provide to adopters, go to www.avma.org, click on "more >>" under the Issues section, then click on "Microchip/Electronic ID Resources."



Animal Neglect

Section 50 of the Michigan Penal Codes (1931, Public Act 328, as amended) was amended on April 1, 2008. The change toughens penalties against individuals charged with animal neglect. For example, per section 50(4)(b), a person involved in a violation of this section involving 2 or 3 animals or to which violation of this section resulted in the death of an animal could be imprisoned for up to a year. To view the revised version of this law, go to: www.legislature.mi.gov, click on "Public Act MCL Search." Enter 328 in the box that says "Public Act Number" and 1931 in the box that says "Public Act Year," and click "Search." Then, scroll down to and click on "Section 750.50."

Salmonella: A Hidden Danger

There is a rumor going around that small turtles no longer carry salmonella, a bacteria which causes serious illness. This is not true! In fact, most reptiles carry salmonella. Many people become ill every year from contact with reptiles. Every year 1.4 million people become infected with Salmonella (non-Typhoid). It is estimated that six percent of these people contracted salmonella from contact with reptiles. Of this 1.4 million, about 15,000 people are hospitalized and about 400 die.

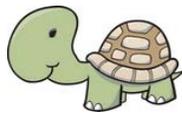
Children and immunocompromised people are most at risk of acquiring Salmonella from reptiles. Reptiles with salmonella do not appear ill. The bacteria is passed to people who handle the reptile. Signs of salmonella infection mimic that of the flu and can include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Your best bet is to assume that all

reptiles have salmonella. Employees, purchasers, and adopters of reptiles can help protect themselves from salmonella by:

- ❖ Washing their hands well with soap and water after handling reptiles
- ❖ Regularly cleaning the reptiles enclosure and any surface that the reptile may have contacted with soap and water
- ❖ Consider wearing gloves when handling reptiles and cleaning reptile enclosures
- ❖ Keeping reptiles away from surfaces that have contact with food, including sinks, dishes, glasses, countertops, etc.
- ❖ Discouraging reptiles from wandering about the pet shop, shelter, or a home
- ❖ Discouraging children and immunocompromised people from acquiring reptiles
- ❖ Never allowing small turtles to be sold as pets. Many of the recent cases of Salmonella in children have involved contact with small turtles!



For more information on Salmonella in reptiles, go to: www.cdc.gov/Features/ReptilesSalmonella/.



The Turtle Health Advisory Sheet

As a reminder, turtle eggs or small turtles can only be sold for scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes. They can not be sold as pets. If turtles are legally sold, note that the Turtle Health Advisory Sheet has been revised. Anyone who will be selling or distributing turtle eggs or live turtles with shell lengths smaller than four inches must provide the purchaser with the health advisory sheet. Please dispose of any current copies and replace them with the revised version. The revised version can be obtained by visiting:

- www.michigan.gov/mda-licensing,
- clicking on "Animal Related Licensing,
- clicking on "Pet Shops," scrolling down and clicking on "Turtle Health Advisory Sheet,"
- then clicking on "Download this file in PDF format."

Please print this document, make copies, and provide to purchasers of small turtles and eggs. If

you cannot access this document, you may contact the department at 517-373-1077 to obtain a copy.

Confused About Spay-Neuter Contracts?

The Pet Shops, Dog Pounds, and Animal Shelters Law requires that all dogs, cats or ferrets be either altered at the time of adoption, or for the adopter to enter into a contract to have the animal altered. For adopters entering into a contract, the adopted animal must be altered within four weeks if the animal is at least six months old at the time of adoption, or, if the animal is not yet at least six months of age at the time of adoption, to have the animal altered within four weeks of the animal becoming six months of age. The exception to this requirement occurs when:

- A dog is transferred to a law enforcement agency
- A dog is transferred to a facility or organization that trains dogs to assist people with disabilities (service dogs)
- An animal is transferred to another MDA licensed animal shelter

As most rescues place their animals in foster homes rather than an official shelter building, most rescues are neither licensed nor required to be licensed with MDA as an animal shelter. A rescue that is not licensed as an animal shelter with MDA must be handled like any individual interested in adopting an animal. Thus, rescues that are not licensed with MDA must enter into a spay-neuter contract to adopt unaltered animals. For a complete list of animal shelters currently licensed with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, go to: www.michigan.gov/mda-licensing, click on "Animal Related Licensing," click on "Animal Shelters," and Click on "Directory of Licensed Michigan Animal Shelters."

Here are some other things to keep in mind with spay-neuter contracts:

- A deposit of at least \$25.00 must be left with the animal shelter. The law does not mandate a maximum amount for the deposit. The deposit must be returned to the adopter upon the submission of a spay-neuter certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian if the alteration occurred within the mandated time frame. The deposit must also be returned to the adopter upon the submission of a statement from a veterinarian indicating either that the animal died within the mandated alteration time frame or that the animal has a serious permanent medical

condition that prevents alteration. If an animal has merely a temporary medical condition that prevents alteration during the mandated time frame, a statement from the examining veterinarian indicating this must be submitted to the shelter. The animal must be reexamined at least every 14 days until the animal is healthy enough to undergo alteration. The animal must then undergo alteration within seven days of approval from the veterinarian for the deposit to be returned to the adopter.

- Adopters are responsible for the damages incurred by the shelter in enforcing the spay-neuter contract. A shelter must include a statement to this in the adoption contract. This area in the contract must be emphasized to the adopter before the adopter signs the spay-neuter contract.
- The department recommends that the shelter have the adopter initial next to this area to indicate that they have read and agree to this.



Compliance Update

In 2007, MDA held five evidentiary hearings with animal shelters. The reasons for the hearings included failing to maintain drains, failing to have adopters of unaltered animals enter into a spay/neuter contract, failure to provide nonabsorbent, readily sanitized walls and floors, housing females in estrus with intact males, and failing to maintain adequate ventilation in the shelter. Administrative fines totaling \$1400 were collected as a result of these hearings. Shelters agreed to come into compliance. A shelter called to a hearing over improper drainage opted to actively work to construct a new shelter building and maintain drains at the current shelter. Another shelter with non-absorbent, readily sanitized walls and floors opted to acquire a new shelter building rather than make repairs to the current shelter.

Thus far in 2008, MDA has held two evidentiary hearings with animal shelters.

One of the hearings involved a shelter that was called to an evidentiary hearing in 2007 over failing to maintain non-absorbent, readily sanitized walls and floors. At the 2007 hearing, the shelter opted to acquire a new shelter within an agreed upon time frame. However, the shelter neither acquired a new shelter nor made repairs to the current facility by the

required time frame. Thus, another hearing occurred. As a result of the 2008 hearing, the shelter acquired a new shelter building and paid a fine (counted in fees collected for 2007 as part of terms from the 2007 hearing).

Another shelter was called to a hearing over operating a shelter without a license. As the current shelter was unsuitable for a shelter, representatives from the shelter agreed to acquire a new shelter and obtain a license for the new shelter within a mutually agreed upon time frame.

Thus far, both shelters are in compliance.