



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Division of Animal & Food Industry Services

Office of Veterinary Services

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Joseph W. Guthrie
Commissioner

Humane Animal Euthanasia - Training Course General Information

State Veterinarian's Directive 79-1 "Methods Prescribed or Approved for Animal Euthanasia and Competency Certification Requirements" requires that "an individual must complete a VDACS approved Humane Euthanasia course prior to becoming certified to perform euthanasia. Form AC4, the **Animal Euthanasia Training Record**" must be completed and signed by the course instructor and kept on file at the facility where the individual performs euthanasia as a matter of public record. The supervising veterinarian shall provide additional practical training until such time as competency can be certified."

For certain authorized persons (other than licensed veterinarians), this eight (8) hour training course provided by VDACS is required prior to proceeding with the practical training provided by a licensed veterinarian in order to achieve certification to perform animal euthanasia under State Veterinarian's Directive 79-1. Individuals are **NOT** certified during **this training session**. Additional technical and practical training by the supervising veterinarian is **required** prior to the veterinarian making the determination and certification of your competency.

VDACS provides this training to animal control officers and animal shelter personnel. Veterinarians are also invited to attend this course. There is no cost to attend. This course is classroom-based.

To register for an upcoming course, please complete the class registration form. You may call the Animal Care office at 804-692-4001 or send an email to animalcare@vdacs.virginia.gov with any questions. Class participants will be provided with course materials and a completed Animal Euthanasia Training Record (Form AC4, as required by State Veterinarian's Directive 79-1). Each participant will need to bring a calculator and a pen or pencil.

Participants should dress business-casual and professional. There will be a break for lunch. Lunch is not provided for this class and is "on your own". Some training locations have limited dining availability in the nearby vicinity, and participants should plan accordingly (you may wish to bring a lunch).

Times may vary slightly depending on the training site. Generally, classes begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 5:00 p.m. with a 30 – 45 minute lunch break.