Grace's Law - A Bill to Ban All Animal Gas Chambers Still in Use in GA

HEALTH AND SAFETY -- There is ample documentation to show that gas chambers are dangerous for shelter workers and inhumane to both workers and animals, even if they are used properly.

- A major health risk for workers is they unknowingly breathe in low levels of poisonous carbon monoxide gas on a regular basis when they load, unload and clean the gas chambers.
- Carbon monoxide gas is cumulative in the bodies of shelter workers and long-term effects may include cancer and cardiovascular diseases (1993, 2000, 2007 AVMA Euthanasia Reports.)
- Old and/or non-commercial gas chambers are at greater risk of malfunctioning, exploding or leaking gas, heightening the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Personnel charged with gassing animals and other witnesses to the procedure have described the gas chamber as torturous to animals and highly stressful to humans. <u>http://www.care2.com/news/member/148071023/524318;</u> <u>http://www.freewebs.com/animalshelternews/columbus.htm</u>
- Read actual newspaper articles describing death by gassing in San Antonia, TX, and McDuffie County, GA. <u>http://www.treshanley.com/cic/gas.html</u>
- AVMA Guidelines consistently support lethal injection as the preferred method of euthanasia for cats and dogs.

COST - All factors considered, lethal injection is a less expensive method of euthanasia when compared to the gas chamber; workers can be trained for about \$255, and when the drug is properly administered to *sedated* animals, it takes less time than the chamber takes, *and is far less stressful to both workers and animals. Attached is a recent cost study done in NC and which shows EBI is less expensive.*

GA Already Bans Most Gas Chambers. Grace's Law would close the loophole that allows about 20 chambers to continue– Despite their danger to shelter workers and cruelty to animals, Ga's remaining gas chambers are *not* clearly regulated. Most are now 20 or more years old.

- On February 1, 2008, following the discovery of a leaking gas chamber seal, Clayton County, GA, began using lethal injection performed by a state certified and licensed veterinarian as the primary means of animal euthanasia.
- In June of 2008, the Macon City Council unanimously passed an ordinance to end the use of the gas chamber at Macon Animal Control by July 1, 2009.
- **Grace's Law** is named after a hound who survived Liberty County's *illegally installed* gas chamber in 2006. Liberty County, GA, stopped using the gas chamber after Grace survived the ordeal.
- Tennessee banned gas chambers after a worker died from carbon monoxide poisoning in 2002. Several other states ban gas chambers, including Florida, Indiana, Nebraska, and Colorado, among others.
- On February 13, 2008, the Virginia legislature passed a ban on the gas chamber. On January 28, **2009**, HB 6, named *Davie's Law* after a puppy who survived gassing, was filed in the N.C. House.