

CHAPTER 340

H.B. No. 309

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of animal shelters.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 5, Chapter 677, Acts of the 67th Legislature, Regular Session, 1981 (Article 4477-6b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5. EUTHANASIA. (a) No person may put to death a dog, cat, or other small animal in the custody of an animal shelter by shooting, except in emergency field conditions, by clubbing, *by using a decompression chamber*, or by administering any of the following substances:

- (1) unfiltered or uncooled carbon monoxide;
  - (2) curariform drugs, including curare, succinylcholine, pancuronium, glyceryl fenesin, used alone;
  - (3) magnesium salts, used alone;
  - (4) chloral hydrate;
  - (5) nicotine; or
  - (6) strychnine.
- (b) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1987, and applies to the destruction of a small animal by an animal shelter that occurs on or after that date. A small animal

destruction that occurred before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law as it existed at the time of the destruction, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on March 26, 1987, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 309 on May 27, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 25, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 11, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.