

## How to obtain sodium pentobarbital



## Humane Ed. workshop

Many animal shelters have been hesitant to turn to sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia because of the belief that it is almost impossible to obtain.

However, the procedure for a shelter to obtain sodium pentobarbital is "relatively uninvolved," according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice. In a letter to HSUS, Compliance Division Chief Ronald W. Buzzeo said that the only requirement is that "a DVM, properly licensed by the appropriate state authority, obtain a DEA registration as a practitioner in the desired schedules at the address at which the pentobarbital will be stored and used. The DVM can use the order forms issued to him for the purpose of purchasing pentobarbital.

"The pentobarbital which is ordered in this manner will be delivered only to the registered location. Provided that it is allowed by existing state laws, the drug may be administered to animals at the direction of the attending DVM, but he need not be present to receive shipments of drug nor at the time of administration. Of course, the normal recordkeeping requirements are also to be observed.

"If...the respective state authority recognizes clinics or societies, then DEA will attempt to accommodate such registrations at the federal level." (Currently, Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, Washington and Maine allow clinics and shelters to obtain sodium pentobarbital directly.)

Buzzeo wrote, "In view of the fact that this agency cannot register a humane organization to handle controlled substances, it became obvious to us that it was necessary to provide some alternate method by which such organizations might obtain pentobarbital."

HSUS has two free publications on sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia. Titled "Legal Steps for the Procurement of Sodium Pentobarbital" and "How to Administer Sodium Pentobarbital," they are available from SHELTER SENSE, HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. ■

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A three-week workshop on humane education is being offered by the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, June 26-July 13. HSUS participants will include Dr. Michael Fox, director of the Institute for the Study of Animal Problems; John Dommers, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education; Charles F. Herrmann, HSUS News editor; and Douglas Scott, HSUS Gulf States regional director. For complete information, write Dr. G.W. Willingham, Professor, Elementary Education, Box 3017, SFA Station, Nacogdoches, Texas 75962 (telephone: (713) 569-2904).

(Tuition is \$55 for Texas residents, and \$150 for all other participants. Dormitory rooms are \$4 for a single, and \$2 per person when two share a room.) ■