

Topic: Northampton County, NC resuming use of gas chamber--please write

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Charlotte G.

Northampton County, NC resuming use of gas chamber--please write

July 26, 2005 8:00 AM

(Copied with permission to crosspost) PLEASE CROSSPOST

Hi All: It has come to my attention that as a result of the PETA situation in northeastern North Carolina, Northampton County, has resumed the use of its gas chamber. The gas chamber is a cinderblock cell, as you can see here: <http://www.helpinganimals.com/f-ncphotos-northampton.asp>. Before PETA got involved here last year, it is my understanding that animals were dying in this chamber as well as by gunshot injections of succinylcholine chloride, a paralytic that was freezing their bodies up and causing them to die by suffocation, which is neither humane nor legal. Succinylcholine chloride has been banned as illegal for years. Animal suffer incredibly as they are suffocating, terrified, and unable to try to breathe. A really horrible death.

I have found out recently that the offer was made to Northampton County to have a third party pay for euthanasia by injection to be performed by a local veterinarian. A willing veterinarian was located in Hertford County who would provide this service if animals were transported to a pound where he currently provides the same service. A recent Board of Health meeting in Northampton County yielded a vote about this issue, and the vote was apparently to use this vet's services as well as a second entity. But officials will not reveal who the second entity is. Apparently officials also plan to send the current ACO for updated training with Ralph Houser. Officials will not provide assurance that the gas chamber will no longer be used.

Northampton County pound numbers for 2001 through 2003 can be seen at <http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/vet/>. As you can see, about 100 percent of the animals in this pound are killed, so this change affects hundreds of animals annually.

I have sent a letter to county officials about the grassroots effort to stop killing animals inhumanely. It would be good



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for officials in this county to hear from North Carolina animal advocates who have nothing to do with PETA or animal rights and who oppose gassing, especially in a chamber that looks not to be in compliance with state law. Obviously all communications should be brief and courteous to the extreme " we won't affect change with hysterics or nastiness. I encourage you all to write to the Northampton County Commission and Board of Health about this, and to respectfully urge that the gas chamber be destroyed and the services of the willing veterinarian used (they will be free to the county). Thank you.◆◆

<http://www.northamptonnc.com/countymanager.asp>

Wayne Jenkins, County Manager

Northampton County

PO Box 808

Jackson, NC 27845◆◆◆◆◆

Phone:◆ (252)534-2501◆

Fax:◆◆◆ (252)534-1166◆

<http://www.northamptonnc.com/board.asp>

Northampton Board of Commissioners

100 West Jefferson Street

P.O. Box 808

Jackson NC 27845-0808

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