



Secretary Proceso J. Alcala
Department of Agriculture
Elliptical Road
Diliman
Quezon City
1101 Philippines

spja_osec@yahoo.com

April 2011

Dear Secretary Proceso J. Alcala

I am writing on behalf of Animals Asia, a Hong Kong-based non-government organisation dedicated to improving the lives and welfare of all animals across Asia.

The Philippine Animal Welfare Society have informed me of a revote at a 12 April meeting of the Committee on Animal Welfare (CAW), which has approved the use of ‘tambucho’ gassing as a method of euthanasia in the Administrative Order on Euthanasia (AO13). This follows the decision not to approve this inhumane method as voted upon at the CAW meeting of 24 August 2010.

I appeal to you to reverse this decision on the grounds that this method of euthanasia causes severe pain and suffering before death.

Carbon monoxide gas from exhaust fumes are hot and contain irritant impurities which lead to severe welfare issues for animals exposed to them. Gassing is slow acting and animals have been observed showing severe signs of stress during this process. Carbon monoxide (CO) gassing as a form of euthanasia should only be used when sodium pentobarbital is unavailable and under very strict conditions. CO gassing requires a pure source of CO such as cylinder gas and specially constructed chambers operated to safeguard animal welfare and human safety.

The method approved by the CAW allows authorities to kill dogs using vehicle exhaust fumes with animals placed into metal boxes rather than the use of a chamber and cylinder gas.

Sodium pentobarbital is available in the form of Euthal. Animals Asia understands its use is limited due to cost implications. Cost should never be used as an excuse to lower welfare standards and approve methods which cause animal pain and suffering. If all government authorities in the Philippines were required to use Euthal the cost is likely to decrease due to the import of greater quantities.

We appeal to you to rescind this approval and call upon the members of the CAW to reject

tambucho gassing as a method of euthanasia.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Neale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D." and the last name "Neale" clearly distinguishable.

David Neale
Animal Welfare Director
Animals Asia Foundation
Tel: +44 1579 347148
Fax: +44 1579 347343
Email: dneale@animalsasia.org
Web: www.animalsasia.org