Gas Chamber era almost over!

As of June 16, 2011, the rules for any existing gas chambers in WV for euthanizing animals are now in effect. The bill to ban gas chambers became law and part of state animal code on August 29th, 2009. The new code regulates current gas chamber euthanasia and prohibits new use. It is a tragedy that so many healthy cats and dogs, kittens and puppies die for lack of homes; at least they should do so painlessly. There is a grandfather clause in the bill allowing a county who had a chamber before August 29th, 2009 from a company that routinely manufactures and installs gas chambers to continue. However, it will have to be inspected & comply with strict regulations and those regulations are now in effect on June 16, 2011. Plus, only a Certified Euthanasia Technician can operate the chamber. It only makes sense that if you are a CAET and can do the more humane lethal injection, why use the chamber? We believe there are only 4-5 counties still using the chamber. With the existing law & required inspections, we will find out how many of the 55 counties are actually using this method of euthanasia. FOHO wants ALL counties to eliminate the gas chamber and use the preferred method of euthanasia by injection. If you suspect your county is still using the gas chamber, contact the WV Board of Veterinary Medicine (304-776-8032).