

Members of the Michigan Senate Agriculture Committee;

First, let me thank you for your time to read this letter. Like most other people in our state, I was unaware of how barbaric the gas chamber is for euthanizing shelter animals, until I had a chance to volunteer at a shelter that uses one. My time being there was actually part of some community service that I was required to complete. I am now glad to have had an opportunity to serve my community and had my eyes opened to this and hopefully have a chance to express my voice in what I witnessed. I have been there a couple of days a week for 3 weeks. When I first started, I began cleaning water bowls for the dogs and the staff did their best to convince me on how what they were doing was humane and ethical to the animals. I then, began working with the cats in their room. I would clean and do my best to disinfect the room in order to keep the passing of diseases to minimum. I then noticed that the gas chamber was only on the other side of the door. I didn't think much of it as I was trying to focus on what I was doing and that I know that not all animals can be saved. I had the experience of listening to several animals that were put to death using this method, which I can sum up has horrifying.

I had really been becoming attached to being able to help the animals and I know that I am trying to do my part in making their life a little bit better in what could only be summed up as "hell" for them. I was pushed over the edge one day, and knew I had to bring it to someone's attention that this completely asinine to what is going on. I was finishing my cleaning for the day and took the trash out and asked where it was to be dumped. I was instructed where and when I went to do so, I could not believe what I saw. There was a torn bag with a euthanized golden retriever partially exposed. I was earlier instructed that the animal pick-up was done on Monday nights and I assumed that arrangements were made for them to go into the cooler and retrieve the deceased animals. This is not the case. Then, a little later that day, I witnessed a rolling cage full of euthanized dogs being taken out to the dumpster for disposal. I was very upset and decided I need to share this experience. I would like to also state that I have received a Bachelors' degree from Ferris State University and consider myself an educated citizen. I have researched and spoke with people that rescue dogs in Berrien County and they told me that the euthanized animals are incinerated rather than buried in landfills. This negates the mistaken idea that Euthanasia by Injection will poison our landfills and spread disease via scavenger animals. Continuing in research, the facts on EBI, and this process is more cost effective and safe to staff than operating a gas chamber. In cases involving dogs or cats that are deemed to unsafe to handle, they may be given a sedative via food which will allow staff to safely perform EBI.

I know my story may be no different from many others, but I am hoping that through sharing of my story of a common citizen will bring awareness to the general public and create a outcry to our government to stop this unethical treatment.

Thank you for your time
sincerely,

Jeffrey Sink

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