



KENTUCKY BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

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KBVE POLICY No. 2102 – Allowable Drugs in Certified ACAs by AESs for Euthanasia and Euthanasia Assistance

Adopted 07/29/2021 - UPDATED 09/23/2021

Governing Statutes: [KRS 321.207](#) Certification of animal control agencies and animal euthanasia specialists

Governing Regulations: [201 KAR 16:550](#) - Authorization for animal control agencies to apply for a restricted controlled substances certificate from DEA

[201 KAR 16:560](#) - Certification as an animal euthanasia specialist

The Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) has been directed by the Kentucky General Assembly to designate appropriate drugs for use by KBVE-Certified Animal Euthanasia Specialists (AES) in the euthanasia of animals, including the drugs employed to assist in humane animal euthanasia.

On July 29, 2021, the KBVE formally adopted a board policy (Policy 2102) limiting the controlled substance euthanasia drugs approved for purchase by KBVE-Certified Animal Control Agencies (ACAs), and approved for use by KBVE-Certified AESs. **On September 23, 2021, the KBVE updated Policy 2102 to the following list of drugs.** KBVE intends to file a regulatory amendment to reflect these restrictions in law. Until such time as the regulations are passed, this policy shall be enforced as law.

KBVE Certified-ACA Controlled Substance Restrictions

- 1) **Euthanasia drugs:**
 - a) sodium pentobarbital, and
 - b) sodium pentobarbital with lidocaine.
- 2) **Euthanasia assist (sedative or anesthesia) drugs, or any combination thereof:**
 - a) Acepromazine
 - b) Dexmedetomidine
 - c) Ketamine (30-day supply or less)
 - d) Xylazine

With regard to approved drugs (that is, the drugs listed above), Certified-ACAs are cautioned to limit future drug order quantities of controlled substances to no more than a 30-day supply. All drugs should be used by the expiration date. Board inspectors shall verify the drug quantities present and drug logs during each inspection.

Effective immediately, KBVE Certified-ACAs in possession of drugs other than those listed above are directed to cease future orders and to expend their remaining supply not later than June 30, 2022. Any such euthanasia drugs and euthanasia assist drugs remaining in Certified-ACA possession after that date should be destroyed, and witnessed by a KBVE inspector or local law enforcement, with appropriate notations made in the drug logs.

KBVE Certified-AESs Restrictions

- Certified-AESs must be currently employed by a KBVE-Certified ACA in order to maintain an active certificate and be allowed to practice.
- Euthanasia should only be performed on shelter-owned animals except in cases of “emergency”, as defined in [KRS 321.181\(10\)](#).
- Euthanasia should never be performed on privately-owned animals.

Shelter Veterinarians

Shelter Veterinarians who are employed by, or contracted with, a KBVE-Certified ACA may use their professional judgement to employ other drugs for euthanasia or sedation.

Note that any alternative controlled substances must be purchased and stored under the veterinarian’s separate DEA Registration and in separate locked storage.

In addition, Certified-AESs working in the capacity as a veterinary assistant ([KRS 321.443](#)) under the **Direct Supervision** ([KRS 321.181\(8\)](#)) of a Certified-ACA contracted or employed veterinarian may follow the direction provided by the veterinarian when the veterinarian is onsite and available for immediate response.

Any questions about this board policy should be directed to Vet@ky.gov or mailed to the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners, 107 Corporate Drive, Second Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601.