

**Trenton Animal Shelter
72 Escher Street
Trenton, NJ 08608**

A complaint investigation was conducted at this location on 5/9/17 by Linda Frese, Principal Rabies Control Technician and Supervising Animal Facility Inspector, New Jersey Department of Health. A full facility inspection was not conducted. The following deficiencies were found at the time of this site visit in regards to the complaint:

N.J.A.C. 8:23A-1.11(f). The facility is required to have a stethoscope available on the premises. The manager and a staff member stated that they have a stethoscope and use it as required in 1.11(g), but the stethoscope was unable to be found at the time of this site visit.

The facility did not have written instructions posted at the facility that included the dosages by weight in pounds of all euthanasia, immobilizing, and tranquilizing agents used at the facility. The manager was developing a euthanasia protocol document which was available on the computer, but the previous document was not posted and was unable to be found at the time of this site visit.

Animals were being weighed on intake, but not all animals were being weighed again prior to the administration of euthanasia, immobilizing, or tranquilizing agents. Only animals that had been at the facility for a long period of time were said to be weighed again before euthanasia.

Euthanasia records were being maintained that contained the body weight and dosages of all euthanasia, immobilizing, and tranquilizing agents administered to each animal, but the method of euthanasia, as required in N.J.A.C. 8:23A-1.13 was missing from some of the animal's records.

Approximately 36 animal disposition records for animals that had been euthanized between March, 2017 and May, 2017 were reviewed. There were 12 records that did not contain the route of administration; 2 records did not contain the weight of the animals, but the weights were recorded in the euthanasia log; 2 records contained a different weight in the euthanasia log than the weight recorded in the animal's record resulting in a difference of 30 lbs. for each of these dogs; 1 record was not recorded in the euthanasia log; and 1 record showed that a dog was administered less than the required dose of euthanasia solution for the recorded weight of the dog. The manager stated that the dog was administered an additional 1cc of euthanasia solution, but it was not recorded in the log or the animal's record.

N.J.A.C. 9:23A-1.13(a). The disposition records for 4 cats did not contain complete information as required. The records showed that these cats were transferred to a rescue group, but only the initials of the group were listed. The disposition records are required to include the name and address of the person (or organization) to whom the animal was transferred. There were 7 animals listed on the euthanasia log, but the records were not available in the files. The manager stated that these records were on the animal control officer's desk or in other files because the cases were pending.

N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16 d. Records indicated that some animals were not being held for the required 7 days before being euthanized. Records showed that 18 animals were euthanized between March, 2017 and May 5, 2017 without being held the required 7 days.

Additional Notes:

There had been 4 cats at the facility that were administered a mixture of Telazol, Ketamine, and Xylazine (TKX) for tranquilizing purposes, but the dosages and administration notes were not recorded in the animals' records and a separate log was not being maintained for the use of this mixture. There were no veterinary treatment orders or instructions for the proper use of this mixture and no prescription label on the bottle identifying the mixture and its proper use. The manager stated that each cat was administered .1 ml of TKX, but it was not recorded.

The room where the controlled substances were stored was not adequately locked. The room had a sign on the door that stated "Lock broken- Do not push in lock on other side."