

Effective July 30, 2020 animals (not including domestic dogs, cats, and pet birds) euthanized with Barbiturates must be marked with an Orange B on the forehead, at least 4 inches in height, at the time of euthanasia. The marking of animals is critical so that animals euthanized with Barbiturate do not get rendered into animal feed or pet food. Rendering of dead animals is an important method of carcass management, preventing animal carcasses from being sent to a landfill. For additional information please contact the Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch at (916) 900-5004

Section 1180.43.1. Euthanized Animals.

(a) All animals as defined in Food and Agricultural Code section 19201, including ratites, Camelidae, and Cervidae and those maintained in aquaria, petting zoos, zoological gardens, and other public exhibitions euthanized with barbiturates shall be marked with the letter "B" on the forehead by the person administering the Barbiturate. Each letter "B" shall be:

(1) Made using an orange all-weather livestock marker or orange pavement marking spray paint approved by the Department as suitable for producing a permanent mark;

(2) No less than four (4) inches in height unless the area to be marked is less than four (4) inches, in which case, the mark shall be as large as possible; and

(3) Legible at a distance of not less than ten (10) feet.

(b) This section shall not apply to domestic dogs and cats or pet birds.