



ENSURING HUMANE EUTHANASIA

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CAPTIVE BOLT DEVICE TRAINING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS & VETERINARIANS

INTRODUCTION

Humane euthanasia is the best option for caring for an animal that is severely injured with no chance of recovery. When a traffic accident involving livestock occurs, there is a high likelihood that an animal will need to be euthanized. The Michigan State University Extension Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock (ERAIL) training program equips professionals with knowledge and skills to perform euthanasia safely, effectively, and humanely using a captive bolt device.

The team creates access to this specialized equipment by securing funding to place captive bolt devices in strategic locations across Michigan and delivering training for their proper use. By having access to and training with captive bolt devices, responders have an option that is safer than a traditional firearm to use in a trailer. A captive bolt device eliminates the risk of bullets ricocheting inside the trailer and potentially causing injury to humans. The use of captive bolt devices also increases accuracy when completing the euthanasia process, providing proper animal welfare by completing the task as quickly as possible.

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE

The team expanded the program's reach by training cattle veterinarians and industry professionals in Santiago and Osorno, Chile. These workshop locations, 570 miles apart from each other, were where there were needs for education related to euthanasia and the use of captive bolt device. The trainings were highly value by participants.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Understand the importance of humane euthanasia and animal welfare concerns.
- ✓ Learn the proper use of captive bolt devices, including how to confirm insensibility and death.
- ✓ Gain hands-on experience in a controlled setting, using realistic model livestock heads.
- ✓ Improve confidence and competency in euthanasia procedures when deployed to an accident event.



Program attendees receive instruction on using a captive bolt device on a model pig (above) and sheep (right) head.



Captive bolt device equipment (above)



Program attendees practice on models using a captive bolt device to euthanize livestock.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT EVALUATION DATA

91%

Reported a moderate or significant increase in knowledge about euthanasia and captive bolt device use.

89%

Indicated a moderate or significant increase in their confidence of completing the euthanasia process using a captive bolt device.

97%

Stated they improved their safety and confidence when performing an euthanasia procedure.

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