State Euthanasia Laws

Alabama

The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners may provide by rule that sodium pentobarbital is the only method allowed for dogs and cats.

They must create rules for the use of Carbon Monoxide, CO2, and inhalant anesthetics.

In emergency situations where an animal is clearly dying and suffering, a law enforcement officer, a veterinarian, or an agent or designee of a local animal control unit may either shoot the animal or use a barbiturate drug.

Penalties: Class B misdemeanor (Imprisonment not more than 6 months, a fine not more than $3,000, or both)

Alaska
12 Alaska Administrative Code 02.215: Euthanasia of domestic animals.

Injections of sodium pentobarbital, sodium pentobarbital with lidocaine, and other drugs authorized in regulations are allowed.

Arizona
A.R.S. Section 11-1021: Proper care, maintenance and destruction of impounded animals.
http://www.azleg.state.az.us/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/11/01021.htm&Title=11&DocType=ARS

Arizona allows 3 methods:

1. Sodium pentobarbital or a derivative of sodium pentobarbital.


3. T-61 euthanasia solution or its generic equivalent.

Arkansas
Arkansas Code Anointed Section 5-62-117: Decompression chambers.
http://170.94.58.9/NXT/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=blr:code (not real site)
Animals cannot be destroyed in decompression chambers.
Penalties: Class C misdemeanor (30 days maximum)
$100 maximum fine
They define euthanasia as: the humane killing of an animal accomplished by a method that utilizes anesthesia produced by an agent that causes painless loss of consciousness and subsequent death, and administered by a licensed veterinarian or a euthanasia technician licensed by the Drug Enforcement Administration and certified by the Department of Health. A.C.A. § 4-97-103

**California**
Cal Civ. Code, Civil Code 1834.4. Policy against euthanization of adoptable or treatable animals.
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate?WAISdocID=9503515417+0+0+0&WAISaction=retrieve

It is California state policy that no animal should be euthanized if it can be adopted or treated.

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=pen&group=00001-01000&file=594-625c

California prohibits the use of Carbon Monoxide gas and intracardiac injection of a euthanasia agent on a conscious animal unless it is heavily sedated, or the circumstances justify it.

For dogs and cats, California also prohibits high altitude decompression chambers and Nitrogen gas.

Penalties: Misdemeanor (imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or a fine not to exceed $1,000, or both)

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=pen&group=00001-01000&file=594-625c

Can only use chloroform vapor or inoculation of barbiturates when euthanizing newborn dogs and cats.

Penalties: Misdemeanor (imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, or a fine not to exceed $1,000, or both)

**Colorado**
Colorado Revised Statutes Section 35-80-102(7): Definitions
http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/stustcost35_80_101_117.htm#s102

Methods recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association as humane.

**Connecticut**
Conn. Gen. Statutes Section 22-344a: Euthanasia of animals by pet shops.

Pet shops can only euthanize warm-blooded animals by lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital.

Penalties: A violation will result in a revocation of the pet shops license.
High altitude decompression chambers are not allowed for euthanasia.

Euthanasia on wild animals must conform to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection’s orders which are based on the recommendations of the 1993 report of the American Veterinary Medical Association panel on euthanasia.

**Delaware**
Delaware only allows sodium pentobarbital or chloroform after approval by a licensed veterinarian.

Del. Code Ann. Section 8005: Use of decompression chamber to be prohibited. 
Penalties:  Class A misdemeanor (imprisonment not exceeding 1 year, and a fine of $2,300).

**Florida**
Florida only allows Sodium pentobarbital, a sodium pentobarbital derivative, or other agent the Board of Veterinary Medicine may approve for the destruction of cats and dogs.
Penalties:  1st degree misdemeanor (imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or a fine not to exceed $5,000, or both).

http://www.flsenate.gov/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=Ch0828/SEC065.HTM&Title=->2007->Ch0828->Section%20065#0828.065
Warm blooded animals in pet shops can only be put to death by sodium pentobarbital, a sodium pentobarbital derivative, or a substance or procedure which acts on the central nervous system and is clinically proven to be humane.
Penalties:  1st degree misdemeanor (imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or a fine not to exceed $5,000, or both).

**Georgia**
Official Code of Georgia Ann. Section 4-11-5.1: Euthanasia of dogs and cats by animal shelters, ect. 
http://w3.lemis-nexis.com/hottopics/gacode/default.asp
Only sodium pentobarbital or a derivative may be used to euthanize dogs and cats.
However, should a shelter have used commercially bottled carbon monoxide gas before July 1\textsuperscript{st} 1990, and have properly notified the Commissioner of Agriculture that they use gas; they will be allowed to continue to use gas.

Georgia allows an alternative to sodium pentobarbital so long as the alternative is humane and approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Under no circumstances can succinylcholine chloride, curare, curariform mixtures, or any substance which acts as a neuromuscular blocking agent be used on a dog or cat.

Georgia does not allow under any circumstances the use of a gas powered engine to deliver carbon monoxide, nor does it allow the use of decompression chambers.

Under extreme circumstances, where the animal poses a risk to the person administering euthanasia, any humane method may be used to euthanize the animal.

**Hawaii**

Hawaii Revised Statues Section 143-13. Destruction of diseased or unfit dogs.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol03_Ch0121-0200D/HRS0143/HRS_0143-0013.htm

Diseased or unfit dogs in taken into custody must be destroyed in a humane manner.

**Idaho**

Idaho Code Section 25-3516: High-Altitude Decompression Chamber Prohibited.

http://www3.state.id.us/cgi-bin/newidst?sctid=250350016.K

Idaho does not allow decompression chambers to be used to euthanize cats and dogs.

Penalties: Misdemeanor (imprisonment not more than 6 months, or a fine between $100 and $5,000, or both)

A second offense within 10 years results in imprisonment of less than 9 months, or a fine between $200 and $7,000, or both

A third or subsequent offense within 15 years of the first conviction results in imprisonment not more than 1 year, or a fine of between $500 and $9,000, or both

Idaho Administrative Code Agency 46 Chapter 1 Section 201: Methods of Euthanasia.

Schedule II non-narcotic or Schedule III non-narcotic euthanasia drugs covered by the Controlled Substances Act that has first been approved in writing by the Idaho Board of Pharmacy, the CETF and the Board.

Euthanasia chambers when the equipment is properly designed and operated.

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Illinois
Illinois only allows euthanasia by euthanasia drugs and commercially compressed carbon monoxide. A carbon monoxide chamber must meet the requirements sent down by the American Veterinarian Medical Association. Animals that are under 4 months of age, old, injured, or sick cannot be euthanized by carbon monoxide.

Indiana
Ind. Code Ann. Section 15-5-17: Prohibited Methods of Destroying Animals. http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/stusinst15_2_1_6_1.htm#s5_17_2
Decompression chambers and electrocution are not allowed. Penalties: Class B misdemeanor (imprisonment not to exceed 180 days, additionally a fine not more than $1,000 may be ordered).

Iowa
Euthanasia must be in conformance with the 1993 AVMA Report on Euthanasia.

Kansas
The only allowable methods of euthanasia are those methods established by the latest American veterinary medical association panel on euthanasia.

Kentucky
KRS 258.095: Definitions for KRS 258.095 to 258.500 (euthanasia). http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/258-00/095.PDF
Euthanasia must be humane, and should follow the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia’s latest report on acceptable methods of euthanasia for each species.

Gunshot euthanasia shall not be used in animal shelters unless the animal is a threat to those at the shelter. Gunshot euthanasia can be used by peace officers or animal control officers outside of shelters when the animal cannot be sized, is a threat to the general public, or when the animal is injured and suffering.
Louisiana
Louisiana Revised Statutes Section 3:2465: Operating procedures.
http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=86039
Louisiana only allows euthanasia approved by the report of the American Veterinary Medical Association on Euthanasia, dated July 1, 1978, or as revised.

Maine
Maine Revised Statutes Section 17-42-1042: Euthanasia performed by licensed veterinarian or certified person (cats and dogs).
http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/17/title17sec1042.html
Maine only allows veterinarian or other certified people to use barbiturate overdose to euthanize cats a dogs.

Penalties: Class E crime (imprisonment not to exceed 6 months, additionally a fine not to exceed $1,000 may be imposed).

Maine Revised Statutes Section 17-42-1043: Emergency methods.
http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/17/title17sec1043.html
Shooting an animal is allowed when the usual method cannot be used quickly and delay will cause undue suffering, or when human or other animal life is endangered.

Maine Revised Statutes Section 4011: Cruelty to animals.
http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/7/title7sec4011.html
An owner of a dog or cat may kill that dog or cat with a gun so long as they are 18, using a weapon that will require only a single shot, they cause instant death, and the animal is not restrained in such a way to cause undue suffering.

Maryland
http://www.michie.com/maryland/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=main-h.htm&cp=
Decompression chambers, carbon monoxide gas, and curariform drugs cannot be used when euthanizing cats and dogs.

Penalties: Misdemeanor (a fine not to exceed $500)

Massachusetts
Greyhounds may only be euthanized by lethal injection or by another method approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Euthanasia by carbon monoxide is prohibited unless the engine or gas generator used produces at least a 4% concentration of carbon monoxide within 5 minutes and the gas is cooled and filtered so that it does not exceed a temperature of 85 degrees.

**Michigan**
Ann. Laws of Massachusetts Ch. 287 Section 279a: Killing dog or other animal; use of high altitude decompression chamber or electrocution prohibited.
Michigan does not allow decompression chambers of electrocution.

**Minnesota**
343.37: Decompression chambers prohibited.
https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=343.37
Penalties: Misdemeanor (imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than $1,000, or both).

**Mississippi**
Check with your state official.

**Missouri**
Missouri Ann. Statutes Section 578.005: Definitions (humane killing).
http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/C500-599/5780000005.HTM
Animals my only be euthanized by methods approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Panel on Euthanasia.

**Montana**
Montana Code Ann. Section 81-2-120: Management of wild buffalo or bison for disease control.
http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/mca/81/2/81-2-120.htm
When a wild buffalo enters Montana from a heard that is infected, that buffalo can be euthanized by gun shot or by some humane method of euthanizing animals.

Montana only approves sodium pentobarbital for use as a euthanasia drug.

**Nebraska**
Check with your state official.

**Nevada**
Nevada Revised Statutes Ann. Section 638.119: Euthanasia technician.
http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-638.html#NRS638Sec119
Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners will set all standards and methods used for euthanizing animals.
**New Hampshire**
Check with your state official.

**New Jersey**

When euthanizing a domestic animal succinylcholine chloride, curare, curariform drugs, or any other substance which acts as a neuromuscular blocking agent is prohibited.

N. J. Statutes Section 4:22-19: Destruction of impounded animals.

New Jersey does not allow euthanasia by hypoxia induced by decompression, by lethal gas other than an inhalant anesthetic, or by any other means not generally accepted by the veterinary medical profession.

Penalties: 1st offense (fine of $25 for each animal). Subsequent offense (fine of $50 for each animal).

New Jersey Administrative Code 8:23A-1.11: Euthanasia.

The primary recommended method is an intravenous injection of a barbiturate. New Jersey also allows administration of injectable solutions approved for use in dogs and cats, inhalant anesthetics, and intravenous injections of combinations of chloral hydrate, magnesium sulfate and pentobarbital for large animals, such as horses.

**New Mexico**
New Mexico Statutes Ann. Section 77-1B-8: Euthanasia agencies.

The animal sheltering services board shall determine all standards and methods for euthanizing animals.

The law is repealed on July 1st 2012.


If an animal can be rendered unconscious before administering an intracardiac injection, then an animal may not be euthanized until it is rendered unconscious.
Penalties: Misdemeanor (imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or a fine not to exceed $1,000, or both).

New York
New York Consolidated Law Service Agriculture and Markets Law Section 26-374: Humane destruction or other disposition of animals.
http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menugetf.cgi?COMMONQUERY=LAWS
New York does not allow any decompression chamber or decompression device.

They do not allow a cat or dog to be euthanized with T-61, curare, any curariform drug, any neuro-muscular blocking agent or any other paralyzing drug.

They do not allow euthanasia of cats or dogs with a gunshot, unless in situations where it would lessen the suffering of a seriously injured animal or it is a dangerous dog.

They do not allow euthanasia of a dog or cat with gas from any engine exhaust system.

Penalties: Misdemeanor (imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or a fine not to exceed $1,000, or both)

North Carolina
http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_19A/GS_19A-24.html
The Board of Agriculture will determine the allowable methods of euthanasia, and only methods approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Humane Society of the United States, or the American Humane Association will be allowed.

If carbon monoxide gas is approved by the Board, only commercially made gas is allowed. Furthermore, the actual chamber must have the ability to individually separate the animals.

North Dakota
Check with your state official.

Ohio
Ohio Revised Code Ann. Section 959.06: Prohibited methods of destroying domestic animals.
http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/959.06
Ohio does not allow high altitude decompression chambers, and only allows methods that immediately and painlessly renders the animal unconscious and then dead.

Ohio Revised Code Ann. Section 4729.532: Performance of euthanasia on animals by lethal injection.
http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4729.532
When performing euthanasia by lethal injection only a combination of drugs consisting of a mix of pentobarbital and at least one noncontrolled substance active ingredient can be used.
Oklahoma
Oklahoma Statutes Ann. Section 501: Method of disposal of animals kept for pleasure.
Oklahoma allows euthanasia by denatured sodium pentobarbital, carbon monoxide chamber so long as it used commercially compressed gas and is not used on puppies and kitten under 16 weeks, and any other method allowed by the Animal Industries Services Division of the State Department of Agriculture.

Oklahoma does not allow the use of curariform derivative drugs.

Penalties: Failure to abide by these rules is a nuisance.
Exception: This does not apply to municipalities with a population under 10,000. They do have to euthanize the animal in a humane way.

Oklahoma Statutes Ann. Section 502: Denatured sodium pentobarbital.
Oklahoma only allows denatured sodium pentobarbital and other drugs approved by the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners or the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control for euthanizing animals in animal shelters.

Exception: This does not apply to municipalities with a population under 10,000. They do have to euthanize the animal in a humane way.

Oregon
Oregon Revised Statutes Section 609.405: Requirement for destroying dogs and cats.
http://landru.leg.state.or.us/ors/609.html
Dogs and cats can only be euthanized by a lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital or other substance approved by the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board.

If the animal to be euthanized is an imminent threat to other life, and administering sodium pentobarbital is inappropriate given the situation, the animal may be destroyed by another humane method. This decision is reviewable by the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board.

Pennsylvania
3-7-328.1. Prohibited means of destruction of animals.
http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/dawson/cruelty/pa_cruel.htm
No animal shall be destroyed by means of a high altitude decompression chamber or decompression device.

3-7-328.2. Methods of destruction of animals.
http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/dawson/cruelty/pa_cruel.htm
In Pennsylvania euthanasia can occur by the administration of an overdose of a barbiturate, barbiturate combinations, drug or drug combinations approved for this purpose by the Federal
Drug Administration and in accordance with guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Euthanasia can also occur by anyone with firearms.

3-7-328.5. Use of carbon monoxide systems.
http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/dawson/cruelty/pa_cruel.htm
Carbon monoxide gas may be used to destroy animals seven weeks of age or older.

Chloroform, ether, halothane or fluothane may be used to destroy animals under seven weeks of age.

**Rhode Island**
R.I Gen. Laws. 4-1-34: Destruction of racing greyhounds
http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE4/4-1-4-1-34.HTM
Racing Greyhounds cannot be killed unless by lethal injection, or by some other human way established by the American veterinary medicine association.

R.I. Gen Laws 4-19-12: Disposition of animals
http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE4/4-19/4-19-12.HTM.
Carbon Monoxide and gas chambers are explicitly banned, and the only acceptable means of euthanasia is lethal injection.

However, under emergency type situations with no alternative, an animal may be shot so long as: the shooter is well trained, the animal is restrained in a humane manner, and maximum precaution is taken to minimize the animal’s suffering.

**South Carolina**
http://www.scstatehouse.net/code/t47c003.htm
S.C. allows barbituric acid derivatives and, for dogs and cats older than 16 weeks only, bottled carbon monoxide gas.

An animal may be shot only in emergency situations where the animal is a danger to the public, or where the emergency requires the animal to be shot to prevent further suffering.

**South Dakota**
S.D. Codified Laws Section 40-1-25: Administration and enforcement of livestock provisions.
http://legis.state.sd.us/statutes/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=40-1-25
This places all decisions regarding the method of euthanasia in the hands of South Dakota Animal Industry Board.

South Dakota only allows methods that produce instantaneous unconsciousness and immediate death without visual evidence of pain or distress or by administering an anesthetic which causes loss of consciousness and death following loss of consciousness.

**Tennessee**
http://www.michie.com/tennessee/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=main-h.htm&cp
Extensive procedures listed, but it comes down to Sodium pentobarbital and such other agents as may be specifically approved by the rules of the board of veterinary medicine shall be the only methods used for euthanasia of non-livestock animals.

**Texas**
Texas Health and Safety Code Section 821.052: Methods of Euthanasia.
http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/statutes/docs/HS/content/htm/hs.010.00.00821.00.htm#821.052.00
A dog or cat in the custody of an animal shelter may only be euthanized by administering sodium pentobarbital or commercially compressed carbon monoxide.

All other animals should be euthanized according to applicable methods, recommendations, and procedures set forth in the 2000 Report of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia as modified or superseded by a subsequent report of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia that is approved by the board.

**Utah**
Check with your state official.

**Vermont**
V.S.A. Title 13 Section 371: Euthanizing animals
http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=13&Chapter=008&Section=00371
The Sec. of agriculture, food, and markets determines what the states euthanasia practices are.

**Virginia**
http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+3.1-796.77
High altitude decompression chambers and gas chambers are prohibited.

**Washington**
Washington Administrative Code §246-887-050 Sodium pentobarbital for animal euthanasia.

Washington only allows sodium pentobarbital.

**West Virginia**
W. Va. Code § 19-20-8. Impounding and disposition of dogs; costs and fees. Use a hypodermic injection (it is indicated elsewhere, §30-10A-8, that the “drug of choice” is sodium pentobarbital).

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Use any other procedure approved by American Veterinary Medical Association, the Humane Society of the United States, or the American Humane Association.

Lastly you can shot a dog in an emergency situation when other options are not available, but only if: the shooter is someone trained to use firearms, and maximum precautions are made to minimize the dog’s suffering.

**Wisconsin**
Check with your state official.

**Wyoming**
Wyoming Statutes Ann Section 6-3-203: Cruelty to animals; penalties; limitation on manner of destruction.
http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/statutes.aspx?file=titles/Title6/T6CH3AR2.htm

No high altitude decompression chambers and no carbon monoxide gas chambers using gasoline engines.

Penalties: Misdemeanor (6 months maximum imprisonment, or a fine of not more than $750.00, or both)
A subsequent offense is a high misdemeanor (1 year maximum prison or a maximum fine of $5,000, or both)

http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/statutes.aspx?file=titles/Title33/T33CH30AR2.htm
Wyoming defines euthanasia as:
(iv) "Euthanasia" or "euthanizing" means the act or practice of providing a humane death for animals through the use of euthanizing drugs;
(v) "Euthanizing drugs" means any pentobarbital-based drug labeled by the manufacturer for the purpose of euthanizing animals, with the exception of Schedule I drugs as defined in W.S. 35-7-1013 and 35-7-1014.

In the state of Wyoming, euthanasia can only be preformed by a pentobarbital-based drug.