

## **CERTIFIED ANIMAL EUTHANASIA TECHNICIAN HEART STICK EUTHANASIA**

The WV Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”) has been informed that there are a number of certified animal euthanasia technicians (“CAET’s) using cardiac puncture (a.k.a. heart stick) when euthanizing cats. **The Board’s stance is that cardiac puncture is only allowed if it is used as a “last resort” method on animals that are non-responsive. A responsive animal must be sedated prior to the use of cardiac puncture.**

If you are unable to access a peripheral vein, an alternative technique is intraperitoneal injection that is described in the CAET Training Manual. The Board will continue teaching this method in the annual CAET initial training program.