

Appendix C

Sample Euthanasia Policy

Rescue Group provides a lifetime commitment to all animals that come into our care by arranging for a foster home until they are adopted into their permanent home. While we do not euthanize any animal for time or space, unfortunately, there are some instances where euthanasia is the best or only humane option for an animal in our care. Each animal is evaluated as an individual and assessed under the circumstances as a whole. Euthanasia is only considered after an appropriate investigation of other viable and reasonable options. The following outlines the circumstances in which we consider euthanasia for an animal in our care, how that decision is made and how it will be carried out.

Circumstances that may require euthanasia

Rescue Group only considers euthanasia as an option for animals that are suffering mentally, emotionally or physically and have a poor prognosis; are experience unremitting pain or mental suffering that cannot be reasonably alleviated; or pose danger to other animals, themselves or people. Euthanasia is not an option we take lightly and it will be done only when it we have determined that is the only humane option for the animal.

Medical Issues

After consulting with a veterinarian and following her recommendations, we will consider euthanasia for an animal who has a poor prognosis, will have a long and painful rehabilitation process with little chance of a meaningful recovery, has an incurable debilitating illness or is not responding to the available treatment.

Behavioral Issues

If an animal has a history of unprovoked biting and/or is exhibiting aggressive behaviors that pose unacceptable risk to other animals or people, we will consult with an ADPT certified trainer. If the behavior expert determines that the animal is unable to be rehabilitated and will continue to pose a threat to others, we will consult another behavior expert for a second opinion. If the second behavior expert agrees that the animal poses a danger to others and unable to be rehabilitated, we will euthanize the animal. In our opinion, if an animal is so aggressive that two behavior experts determine that it poses a danger to other animals and/or people, life in a sanctuary is simply not a humane option. We will not transfer an animal to another rescue group or shelter to avoid the difficult decision of having to euthanize for a behavioral issue.

How we make the decision to euthanize

For standard medical cases, we will defer to the judgment of our veterinarians in making euthanasia recommendations. For those rare, controversial medical cases where the animal's quality of life may be unclear, the board of directors and executive director will convene to



evaluate the data, consult other resources if necessary and make a determination by a simple majority vote. The foster provider for the animal in question will also be allowed to participate in the discussion and request a vote.

How the animal is euthanized

The foster provider or another representative from **Rescue Group** will be responsible for taking the animal to one of the organization's partner veterinarians for euthanasia. Whenever possible and appropriate, the foster provider or other representative from **Rescue Group** will remain with the animal during the entire process.

