



Humane Animal Rescue Medical Euthanasia policy

Objective: To establish clear guidelines and procedures for making euthanasia decisions for rescued animals in our care, ensuring that euthanasia is considered only as a last resort and under specific circumstances, where it is deemed the most humane and compassionate option for the animal's well-being.

Policy statement: Medical euthanasia of rescued animals in our care will only be considered if the animal has been seen by multiple vets and they all recommend euthanasia as the most appropriate as the most humane and ethical outcome for the animal.

Guidelines:

1. **Recommendation by experts:** Euthanasia will only be considered if all medical options have been exhausted and it is recommended by minimum two vets as the most humane option for the animal. This should only be when all testing options have been completed.
2. **Ethics consideration:** Euthanasia decisions will be guided by ethical principles, prioritising the best interests of the animal while considering the organisation's resources and capacity to provide ongoing care and support. Every effort will be made to explore alternative options, such as specialised behavioural rehabilitation programs or placement with experienced adopters and ultimately recommendation from expert vets.

Implementation: This policy will be communicated to all staff members, volunteers and foster caregivers involved in the care and decision-making process for rescued animals. It will be integrated into our standard operating procedures and reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with ethical standards and the welfare of the animals in our care.

By adhering to this policy, our organisation is committed to upholding the highest standards of care and compassion for rescued animals, ensuring that euthanasia is considered only as a last resort and in circumstances where it is truly in the animal's best interests.