

 <p>City of Rockwall <i>The New Horizon</i></p>	Rockwall Animal Services Department Policies & Administrative Directives		
	Policy No. 8	Page 1 of 2	Origination Date: 02/06/2012
	Subject: Euthanasia Criteria		Rick Crowley, Interim CM _____ Date

INTENT

The Animal Services Department will continuously strive to reach a 90% Live Outcome for all companion animals unless directed otherwise by the City Council. This goal will be achieved by a combination of a comprehensive animal adoption program, a foster program and a transfer partner program. Under certain circumstances and with much thought, euthanasia of some animals will be necessary to end animal pain suffering, as an alternative to expensive medical care when donated funds are not available for treatment and for the protection of the public from dangerous and viscous animals.

COMPANION ANIMALS DEFINITION

“Companion animals” are considered domesticated or domestic-bred animals whose physical, emotional, behavioral and social needs can be readily met as companions in the home, or in close daily relationship with people. Typically, these animals are provided shelter, food, water and medical care by the owner.

CRITERIA

Sick and or Injured Animals

Any animal that has a serious medical condition due to an accident or illness, euthanasia will be considered. Typically, this would include a motor vehicle accident causing broken limbs, internal injuries or head trauma. This would include serious and life threatening illnesses such as acute feline leukemia or other ailments requiring a surgical procedure to repair. If donated funds are available for treatment immediately and recovery care is provided by a transfer partner or foster partner, the animal will be treated if there are no delays that would prolong the suffering of an animal.

Dangerous and/or Viscous Animals

Any animal that is “owner surrendered” or is not picked up after the State required ten day holding period after a bite incident shall be euthanized. Animals displaying a high degree of aggressiveness towards other animals of the same species or another species may be euthanized.

A dangerous dog shall be defined as:

A) makes an unprovoked attack on a person that causes bodily injury and occurs in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own; or

(B) commits unprovoked acts in a place other than an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own

and those acts cause a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily injury to that person.

Dangerous dogs will be euthanized in accordance with this policy.

Animals displaying a high degree of aggressiveness towards other animals of the same species or another species may be euthanized. The display of aggressiveness must be witnessed by two or more people on two or more occasions. Animals that attempt to bite one or more of the staff or volunteers while at the Animal Adoption Center may be euthanized. Animals displaying a high degree of aggressiveness towards humans will be considered for euthanasia. A video recorder shall be used when available to record aggressive or dangerous behavior.

Feral Cats

While stray cats are pet cats that have been lost or abandoned, feral cats are typically the offspring of lost or abandoned cats or other feral cats that have not been spayed or neutered. Stray cats are accustomed to contact with people and are tame, but feral cats are not accustomed to contact with people and are typically too fearful and wild to be handled. Whereas stray cats may be reunited with their families or adopted into new homes, feral cats do not easily adapt or may never adapt to living as pets in close proximity with people. Feral cats may be euthanized if an immediate home is not available outside of the animal adoption center.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Any euthanasia will require two signatures from any of the following:

- Animal Services Department Manager
- Director of Municipal Services
- Licensed Veterinarian
- City Manager
- Assistant City Manager