

Humane Euthanasia

Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society (EHS) supports the use of humane euthanasia.

Rationale

- EHS is a managed admission shelter that accepts companion animals, which includes but is not limited to those that are ill, injured, behaviourally unhealthy, and/or pose a risk to the community. TEHS does not euthanize animals due to time or space constraints.
- TEHS exercises every reasonable and safe option to support successful placement of animals in the community. These options include, but are not limited to: foster care, placement partners, surgical procedures that improve health and adoptability, behaviour modification and/or psychopharmacology, socialization, and enrichment programs.
- Decisions are made with careful consideration on an individual, case-by-case basis with EHS acting in the best interests of the animal's current and future welfare status. The decision to humanely euthanize requires agreement among a team of experts who are qualified based on their extensive education, training and experience.
- TEHS provides alternatives to euthanasia whenever reasonable and safe. However, humane euthanasia is a compassionate decision for animals who are a danger to the public or other companion animals, have future health or welfare needs that cannot be met by a typical caring and responsible guardian, and/or has a disease, injury, or severe behavioural problem that cannot be treated by EHS while maintaining adequate welfare.
- EHS aims to reduce the need for euthanasia through its programs and services. Some of these initiatives include: training classes, private behaviour consultations, animal behaviour and training advice, subsidized spay/neuter surgery programs, and humane education on responsible pet guardianship. EHS uses best practices in animal sheltering and evidence-based information to develop our programs and services.

References

1. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "Euthanasia." ASPCA position statement, New York, n.d.
2. Humane Canada. "Euthanasia." Humane Canada position statement, Ottawa, n.d.

