

## **Bounce Animal Rescue Euthanasia Policy**

### **General**

Bounce Animal Rescue 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, 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**

Bounce Animal Rescue only considers euthanasia as an option for animals that are suffering mentally, emotionally, or physically, and have a poor prognosis. This can also include unremitting pain or mental suffering that cannot be reasonably alleviated, or posed danger to other animals, themselves or people. Euthanasia is not an option we take lightly, and it will be done only when it has been determined that it is the only humane option for the animal.

#### Medical Issues

After consulting with a veterinarian and following his/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 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 exhibiting aggressive behaviors that pose unacceptable risk to other animals or people, the Executive Director and Board of Directors may consult a certified trainer or behaviorist. If the Executive Director, Board of Directors, and trainer or behaviorist determine that the animal is unable to be rehabilitated and will continue to pose as a threat to others, we will euthanize the animal. In our opinion, if an animal is so aggressive that the Executive Director, Board of Directors, and a trainer or behaviorist determine that the animal poses a danger to other animals and/or people, life in rescue is simply not a humane or viable 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 Executive Director and Board of Directors will convene to evaluate the data, consult other resources if necessary, and make a determination by a simple majority vote. The foster home for the animal in question will be allowed to participate in the discussion, but not request a vote.

### **How the animal is euthanized**

The foster home, Executive Director, or a Board member will be responsible for taking the animal to one of the organization's partner veterinarians for euthanasia. Whenever possible and appropriate, the foster home, Executive Director, or Board member will remain with the animal during the entire process.