

FSVC Euthanasia Policy

Modified 01/30/2023

Euthanasia is an important and necessary procedure meant for the purpose of preventing unnecessary suffering when animals are terminally ill or injured. As it is a medical procedure, it is ultimately performed at the discretion of the Veterinarian as circumstances warrant. Euthanasia is appropriate when:

- An animal is terminally ill and can no longer be satisfactorily palliated or managed.
- An animal is so severely injured or ill that its prognosis for recovery with reasonably and commonly available treatment is very poor, grave or hopeless.
- An animal has a condition that can no longer be managed by reasonably and commonly available treatment.
- An animal has a severe aggression problem, and an appropriate treatment attempt has been made unsuccessfully.

Euthanasia is not appropriate and will not be provided when:

- An animal is minimally ill or injured, and no reasonable attempt at diagnosis or treatment has been made.
- The pet is unwanted, or the owner has died and “it’s in their will.”
- For the convenience of the owner (i.e. owner finds it easier not to provide care).
- Perceived old age (i.e. owner is of the opinion animal should not receive care because they’re too old). Age is not a disease. We have no way of predicting a patient’s life span any more than we could be expected to predict the client’s. It is not reasonable to base health care decisions on perceived old age other than as it may impact management and the individual’s prognosis.

Responsible pet owners take care of their pets for their entire life.

Please let us know if you have any further questions on our euthanasia procedures or policies.