

Adopted August 27, 2002

Revised: October 29, 2002; April 11 2006, December 9, 2008; February 10, 2009; January 21, 2011; February 6, 2014; March 3, 2016

Great River Rescue EUTHANASIA PROTOCOL POLICY

Based on the following **categories**, it is the policy of Great River Rescue that:

Adoption Potential

Animals that, given the space, time, staff, money or availability of an appropriate home could live well in a new home **will not** be euthanized.

Medical – Treatable

Animals in good physical condition with treatable, non-contagious medical conditions such as skin problems, bad fleas, or mite infestations, a broken limb, abscess, or problems that can be remedied with treatment and/or time **will not** be euthanized.

Medical – Contagious

Animals in good physical condition with a medical condition such as an upper respiratory infection, kennel cough, or sarcoptic mange that may be very treatable but highly contagious in a shelter environment **will not** be euthanized.

Medical – Airborn Disease

Animals with airborne diseases such as a common cold, Calisti Virus, Pan-Leuk, herpes or other airborne diseases who respond favorably to treatment, medication and quarantine **will not** be euthanized.

Physical Condition

Animals in general poor overall condition and/or health who can be medically rehabilitated **will not** be euthanized.

Unweaned – Too Young

Animals that are too young to survive on their own or in a shelter setting, needing extensive care and socialization **will not** be euthanized. Foster homes will be sought for care.

Breed

Breed of animals will not be criteria for euthanasia. Animals **will not** be euthanized because of breed.

Behavior

Animals with behavior problems such as chewing, inappropriate urination, separation anxiety, timidity, destructiveness, or lack of socialization **will not** be euthanized.

Space

Animals that would continue to make good adoption candidates but whose cage space is needed for other animals **will not** be euthanized.

Temperament

Animals that are extremely shy, timid, high-strung, stressed, or distressed who respond positively to efforts to rehabilitate **will not** be euthanized.

Kennel Stress

Animals with a marked change in behavior due to stress as a result of an extended stay at the shelter, which results in aggression, and do not respond to efforts to rehabilitate, or reasonable accommodations for rehabilitation cannot be made, **will** be euthanized.

Inappropriate for Adoption

Animals with a serious condition (for example, feline leukemia, parvo, FIV/FIP) that do not respond positively to medical treatment and would otherwise suffer **will** be euthanized.

Medical – Untreatable

Animals with a terminal illness or injury, severe chronic illness, or other serious medical condition **will** be euthanized.

Aggressiveness

Animals that are showing serious and persistent, unprovoked signs of aggression, have attacked another animal or person, and do not respond to efforts to rehabilitate, or reasonable accommodations for rehabilitation cannot be made, **will** be euthanized.

Feral or Unsocialized

Animals that have not and cannot be handled and do not adjust to the shelter setting with no hope of socialization **will** be euthanized.

Court Order

Animals that have been ordered for euthanasia at the direction of a judge, hearing officer, or other public official with such authority **will** be euthanized.

Method of Euthanasia

The injection of sodium pentobarbital, prepared specifically for use as a euthanasia product, administered by a local veterinarian, is the only authorized method of euthanasia. Documentation of euthanasia will be signed by the veterinarian and filed with the animal's shelter papers.

Method of Disposal

Great River Rescue will not provide animals, dead or alive, for dissection and/or vivisection, nor will euthanized animals be sold to biological supply companies. Animals will be buried or cremated and disposed of off shelter grounds.

This policy is to be used as a guideline to determine criteria for euthanasia. Each animal is treated individually and subject to the fiscal policy of Great River Rescue and availability of resources.

Email is not an appropriate method for determining euthanasia of an animal. If the animal is not suffering, or does not pose a significant safety risk to handlers, a meeting should be held among staff and Board specified committee members to discuss the matter.

Animal shelter staff, board members, government officials, volunteers, and members of the public should never be allowed to question, berate, or harass employees selecting animals for euthanasia about the choices they make. If it is truly believed that the person choosing the animal for euthanasia has violated agency policy, the matter will be addressed by their supervisor.