

Calgary Humane Society

Euthanasia

Position:

The Calgary Humane Society makes every effort to prevent medically and behaviourally sound animals in our care from being euthanized.

In addition, to reduce the causes for euthanasia in our community, the Calgary Humane Society provides training classes, behaviour advice and support, educates the public on the benefits of spay and neuter and responsible pet ownership, and promotes the need for lifelong veterinary care.

The Calgary Humane Society provides alternatives to euthanasia wherever possible, but will perform euthanasia to end the unnecessary suffering of companion animals when no other viable options exist.

Rationale:

- The Calgary Humane Society does not have time limitations placed on an animal's stay in the shelter, but does have space limitations on the number of animals it can shelter at any one time. So long as they are physically and mentally healthy and there is space available at the shelter, animals in the CHS adoptions area remain available for adoption.
- The Calgary Humane Society is an open admission shelter and never turns an animal in need away, even if the shelter is full. The Calgary Humane Society accepts all companion animals, including those that are ill, injured, feral, and behaviourally unsound.
- Each animal is considered for adoption on an individual basis. The role of the Calgary Humane Society is to act in the best interest of the animal's well-being, while considering the availability of resources and the safety of people and other animals in the community.
- Animals are offered every possible and reasonable option for re-homing / adoption. These options include, but are not limited to, foster care, placement partners, surgical procedures that improve the health and adoptability of treated animals, socializing, behaviour intervention, and enrichment programs.

- The Humane Animal Review Team (HART) is a team of experienced CHS staff members including representatives from Animal Health, senior management, and the Behaviour Department. The team reviews the condition of each animal coming into the shelter and explores reasonable alternatives before a decision to euthanize is made. Exceptions to this practice may occur when an animal is in obvious pain or distress, is unsafe to handle, or has a documented history of aggression.