

# Calgary Humane Society

## Abandonment of Companion Animals

### **Position:**

The Calgary Humane Society denounces the abandonment of any animal. Abandonment is an offense under Alberta's Animal Protection Act and federal animal welfare legislation.

### **Rationale:**

Abandoned animals regularly die of starvation, exposure, or are killed by other animals or hit by vehicles. The suffering of abandoned animals is severe since they are not adapted to living on their own or in the wild.

Abandoned companion animals can become a nuisance to the community. For example, abandoned dogs may attack people or other pets or pack together. Pet rabbits and cats abandoned may continue to breed, creating large populations of unwanted animals.

Abandonment is particularly blameworthy and inhumane since pet owners can surrender unwanted pets to the Calgary Humane Society. The Calgary Humane Society is an open admissions shelter and never turns away an animal in need.