

Whitman County Humane Society Euthanasia Policy

(reviewed 06/26/2008)

The goal of WCHS is always to encourage and promote the humane treatment of companion animals; therefore, euthanasia is only considered after all other options have been exhausted. There are some situations where euthanasia is the only feasible alternative. Following are factors for consideration:

1. Animals that pose a threat to other animals or to people because of physical illness, i.e., some infectious diseases, some zoonotic diseases, and/or some diseases that otherwise negatively affect behavior and health.
2. Animals that suffer from severe pain, injury, or illness that is not treatable or too expensive. (If cost will exceed \$100/case, additional funding for treatment must be authorized by an officer of the WCHS Board, unless donated veterinary services can be obtained or someone can be found to adopt the animal.)
3. Dominance or predatory aggression towards people or other animals that causes physical or emotional harm or has the potential to do so. The severity of a bite and the causative circumstances need to be taken into consideration. Euthanasia may only be performed after a qualified temperament evaluation following such an incident, unless otherwise directed by local, county, or state law authorities. Such incidents will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
4. Repeated unprovoked idiopathic aggression which does not respond to behavior modification.
5. Wolf hybrids, unless they display mostly behavior traits characteristic of dogs, are at least 2 years old and can be placed with an experience owner.
6. Sever neurotic behavior due to kennel isolation when no foster home is available or symptoms do not improve in foster care.
7. The quality of life for an animal is considered seriously diminished or impaired.
8. The adoptability of an animal is low due to disposition, disability, age, or special needs.

Euthanasia should take place only if it is recommended by any two of the following: the WCHS shelter manager, a member (or members) of the WCHS board and a qualified veterinarian. Only licensed veterinarians or licensed veterinary technicians are authorized to perform euthanasia once the recommendation has been made.