



**CORPORATE POLICY MANUAL**

Section:	Legislative and Regulatory Affairs	9
Sub-Section:	Animal Welfare Shelter	4020
Title:	THE ANIMAL WELFARE SHELTER “RESTRICTED EUTHANASIA POLICY”	2

**POLICY**

**Council supports a “Restricted Euthanasia Policy” policy for the operation of the District Animal Welfare Shelter, which means ending euthanasia of “treatable” companion animals and supporting the placement of adoptable animals.**

**Council supports the development of policies and procedures, which further the objectives of animal welfare and the determination of non-rehabilitative animals, so that humane euthanasia is undertaken as a last resort.**

**REASON FOR POLICY**

- 1) To ensure responsible ownership of domestic and companion animals by not making easy the humane euthanasia of animals.
- 2) To promote the welfare of animals by all taxpayers.
- 3) To provide for the rehabilitation of treatable animals.
- 4) To facilitate the placement of adoptable animals.
- 5) To confirm that the District will not avail itself of the more stringent aspects of applicable legislation, in considering the humane euthanasia of an animal, and will instead, with the support of donations received, allow for more costly treatment and training to rehabilitate animals whenever possible for adoption.

**AUTHORITY TO ACT**

The municipality under the *Local Government Act* has the authority to provide for the humane euthanasia of animals suffering from incurable disease, the sale or humane euthanasia of animals that are impounded and the humane euthanasia of animals (such as a dangerous dog) when directed by a court, under section 707.1 of the *Local Government Act*. The Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw also provides for the surrender and placement of animals.

**PROCEDURE**

The Facility Manager – Animal Shelter will consider:

- (i) opinions (contributions) from persons, including volunteers of the Animal Welfare Shelter, staff, veterinarian, animal behaviourist or any person with knowledge and experience with the animal.
- (ii) and the animal:
  - is displaying signs of behavioural or temperamental defects which could pose a risk of, or has caused, serious injury to persons or other companion animals, or otherwise makes the animal unsuitable for placement as a companion animal, or
  - has manifested signs of disease, injury, congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of an animal or that is likely to adversely affect its health in the future (excluding animals in critical distress and animals posing a public health hazard).

## **THE HUMANE EUTHENASIA OF ANIMALS**

This policy applies to the humane euthanasia of animals in possession of the Animal Welfare Shelter, and does not apply to stray animals that are being held until the expiration of the impound period.

Under this policy, a veterinarian only shall perform the humane euthanasia of an animal.

### **A. Exotic Animals**

1. The Facility Manager - Animal Shelter may authorize the humane euthanasia of an exotic animal in possession of the Animal Welfare Shelter provided that every endeavour is first made to transfer such animal to a zoological garden or herpetarium.
2. If the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter decides to authorize the humane euthanasia of an exotic animal, he or she shall post a completed Notice of Intention to Humanely Euthanize of an Animal (**Schedule A**) on the public notice board at the Animal Welfare Shelter.

### **B. Animals Under Court Disposition**

The Facility Manager - Animal Shelter shall arrange for the humane euthanasia of an animal when so directed by a court of competent jurisdiction. Any order by the court requiring the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter to humanely euthanize of an animal shall be posted on the public notice board in the Animal Welfare Shelter. An appeal lies to the court and is not subject to this policy.

### **C. Animals in Critical Distress (in Possession or Found “at large”)**

An animal that appears to be in critical distress, which has been found at large or has otherwise come into possession of the Animal Welfare Shelter, shall be assessed by a veterinarian.

The Facility Manager - Animal Shelter shall make all reasonable attempts to notify the owner of an animal found at large. The decision to humanely euthanize of such an animal lies with the veterinarian.

### **D. Surrender by Owner**

The District does not provide the service of receiving animals for humane euthanasia. Owners requesting this service shall be directed to a veterinarian.

### **E. Companion Animals in Possession of the Animal Welfare Shelter and having Behavioural or Health Issues**

The humane euthanasia of a companion animal in possession of the Animal Welfare Shelter may take place when the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter believes that an animal:

1. is displaying signs of behavioral or temperamental defects which could pose a risk of, or has caused, serious injury to persons or other companion animals or otherwise makes the animal unsuitable for placement as a companion animal, or
2. has manifested signs of disease, injury, congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of an animal or that is likely to adversely affect its health in the future.

In either case, the following steps are to be taken.

#### **Step 1**

The Facility Manager - Animal Shelter shall submit a written report, along with any pertinent information, outlining his or her reasons for the preliminary decision to euthanize an animal to the Director of .

In the case of an animal under Section E.1 above, an animal behaviourist shall first assess the animal.

In the case of an animal under Section E.2 above, a veterinarian shall first assess the animal.

#### Step 2

At least 7 days before the day the matter will be considered, the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter shall post a Notice to Consider the Humane Euthanasia of an Animal (**Schedule B**) at the Animal Welfare Shelter advising of such date.

#### Step 3

If a decision by the Facility Manager – Animal Shelter to humanely euthanize the animal, the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter shall post a Notice of Intention to Humanely Euthanize of an Animal (**Schedule A**) on the public notice board at the Animal Welfare Shelter.

#### Step 4

The Facility Manager - Animal Shelter shall arrange for the humane euthanasia of the animal.

### **F. Appeal Process**

Only a decision to humanely Euthanize of an animal under Sections A or E may be appealed, as follows:

1. Only the last known owner of the animal may make an appeal.
2. An appeal shall be made by filing a written request to the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter by 5:00 pm on the fifth calendar day after the posting of the Notice of Intention to Humanely Euthanize an Animal on the public notice board at the Animal Welfare Shelter. When the last day of the appeal period falls on a Saturday, Sunday or District holiday, the period shall run until 5:00 pm on the next business day.
3. An appeal shall be in writing and shall contain the following:
  - a. A brief statement providing details of ownership prior to impoundment and how the owner is significantly affected by or interested in the decision of the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter.
  - b. A brief statement of the owner's issues on appeal, noting owner's specific exceptions and objections to the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter's decision and Order.
  - c. The relief requested, such as reversal of the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter's decision and Order.
  - d. Signature, address and telephone number of the owner, and name and address of owner's designated representative, if any.
4. The Facility Manager - Animal Shelter shall summarily dismiss an appeal without hearing if he or she determines that the appeal is without merit on its face, frivolous or brought merely to secure a delay.
5. In the case of an exotic animal or diseased animal, the person appealing the decision shall have the burden of proving that a reasonable alternative to humane euthanasia is available.
6. In the case of an exotic animal, the person shall have the burden of proving that the animal is a companion animal.

### **DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions relate specifically to this restricted euthanasia policy:

**"Adoptable animals"** shall include only those companion animals 8 weeks of age or older that at, or subsequent to, the time the animal is impounded or otherwise taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental defect that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal, or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

"**Animal**" means any living nonhuman mammal, bird, reptile, or amphibian.

"**Facility Manager - Animal Shelter**" means the person appointed by the District to the position and, in his or her absence, a person acting in the position and who is an Animal Control Officer as defined in the *Local Government Act* or the Poundkeeper as defined in the District of North Vancouver Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw.

"**At Large**" means being elsewhere than on the premises of its owner and not secured on a leash by a competent person.

"**Companion animal**" means any species of animal commonly kept by inhabitants of British Columbia as a service dog or as a pet for companionship and includes a dog, cat, rabbit, ferret, hamster, guinea pig, gerbil or bird, and includes reptiles and other animals if they are kept inside a home, but does not include livestock or poultry; except that venomous reptiles and amphibians (regardless of whether the venom glands have been removed) are not domestic animals, even if such animals are commonly kept by inhabitants of British Columbia as pets or for companionship.

"**Critical distress**" means distress in an animal of such a nature that:

- a. immediate veterinary care cannot prolong the animal's life, or
- b. prolonging the animal's life would result in the animal suffering unduly.

"**Domestic Animal**" means an animal that is livestock, a companion animal, or both.

"**Exotic animal**" means any species of animal that is both:

- (1) not a domestic animal, and
- (2) capable of killing or seriously injuring a human being.

Exotic animal also includes all venomous reptiles and amphibians, (regardless of whether the venom glands have been removed). An animal that is normally domesticated, but that is determined to be wild or feral, shall be considered an exotic animal except that neutered and spayed feral cats to be released shall not be considered exotic animals.

"**In possession**" means an animal impounded under authority of a bylaw of the District and not claimed within the period provided within the bylaw or an animal surrendered to the District by its owner.

"**Service Dog**" includes a guide animal pursuant to the *Guide Animal Act*, a signal dog owned by or in the custody of a deaf person or person whose hearing is impaired, or owned by or in the custody of a physically handicapped person, any dog individually trained to the physically disabled participant's requirements including, but not limited to, minimal protection work, rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items or owned by or in the custody of a person who may suffer from seizures and trained to detect the onset of seizures and protect the owner during an attack.

"**Treatable**" shall include any animal who is not "adoptable," but who could become so with reasonable efforts.

"**Non-rehabilitative**" shall include:

- (1) animals for whom euthanasia is the most humane alternative due to disease or injury,
- (2) dangerous animals, the placement of whom would constitute a danger to the public,
- (3) animals who pose a public health hazard. The only animals that will be euthanized are those that suffer from incurable, painful conditions or those that have an aggressive nature and biting could pose a threat to public safety or pose a public health hazard.

**“Owner”** includes a person who owned, had in his/her custody or under his/her control, or harboured an animal immediately prior to the impoundment and subsequent possession of the animal by the District and can provide satisfactory proof of such ownership and, in the case of a dog, shall be in the form of a dog licence.

Approval Date:	October 20, 2003	Approved by:	Regular Council
1. Amendment Date:	February 14, 2005	Approved by:	Regular Council
2. Amendment Date:		Approved by:	
3. Amendment Date:		Approved by:	



**Notice of Intention to Humanely Euthanize an Animal**

**Particulars of Animal:**

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Neutered/Spayed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Colour \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age \_\_\_\_\_ Tattoo \_\_\_\_\_

Other Identifying Features \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Animal Profile:**

Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (date)

How: Surrendered  Found At Large   
 Impounded  Delivered to Shelter as Stray

Location: (if found at large) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (address)

**Reasons:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (As per Corporate Policy 9-4020-2)

**Date for Humane Euthanasia (on or after)** \_\_\_\_\_

The previous owner of the animal may appeal this determination by contacting the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter at 299 Mansfield Place, North Vancouver, B.C. (604) 990-3711. An appeal shall be made by filing a written request to the Facility Manager - Animal Shelter by 5:00 pm on the fifth calendar day after the posting of the Notice of Intention to Humanely Euthanize an Animal on the public notice board at the Animal Welfare Shelter

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Posted \_\_\_\_\_  
 Facility Manager - Animal Shelter

**Schedule B**



**Notice to Consider the Humane Euthanasia of an Animal**

This is to advise that, on \_\_\_\_\_ the District of North Vancouver Facility Manager – Animal Shelter will consider the humane euthanasia of the following animal, which could result in a recommendation to humanely euthanize of the animal according to Corporate Policy 9-4020-2.

Persons with an interest in this matter may submit their concerns in writing to:  
Facility Manager – Animal Shelter  
c/o District of North Vancouver Animal Welfare Shelter  
299 Mansfield Place  
North Vancouver, B.C. V7J 1E4

**Particulars of Animal:**

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Neutered/Spayed \_\_\_\_\_

Colour \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Tattoo \_\_\_\_\_

Other Identifying Features \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Animal Profile:**

Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

How: Surrendered  Found At Large   
Impounded  Delivered to Shelter as Stray

Location: (if found at large) \_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

**Reasons:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Posted \_\_\_\_\_  
Facility Manager - Animal Shelter