

## **Animal Advisory Committee, January 13, 2015**

*Voted: to Recommend to the Board of Selectmen the Policy on Euthanasia of Companion Animals*

### ***Rehoboth Policy on Euthanasia of Companion Animals***

The Rehoboth Shelter is committed to saving the life of every healthy and treatable animal under its care. The Rehoboth Shelter views euthanasia as a last resort, when efforts to save an animal have failed or are inappropriate.

Each animal will be evaluated medically and behaviorally before decisions are made, according to current professional standards for shelters. Euthanasias are performed by licensed veterinarians, following state laws. Every effort will be made to return animals to their owners.

*General considerations for euthanasia of companion animals (after appropriate waiting periods or quarantine periods):*

- Quality of life for the animal
- Opinion of the veterinarian
- Availability of hospitalization at a veterinary hospital
- Availability of foster program to care for animals
- Availability of funding, with the expectation that aggressive fund-raising will provide resources to save as many animals as possible
- Transferring to another organization that provides a special advantage to an animal
- Every euthanasia record shall state a specific reason for the euthanizing of that individual animal

*Examples of reasons for euthanasia of companion animals:*

- Terminal illness or injury unless rescue or adopter can be found
- Extreme debilitation/age unless rescue or adopter can be found
- Danger to themselves/other animals and/or people

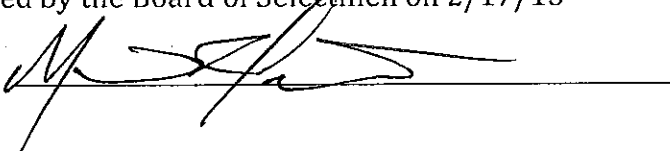
- Contagious disease that cannot be cured or managed
- Behavioral issues that severely affect adoptability
- Suffering and pain that are not likely to be relieved by medical treatment
- State Rabies Law requirements

*Examples of conditions that should not be reasons for euthanasia:*

- External or internal parasites
- Upper respiratory infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Wounds such as bites, abscesses, or broken bones, that can be treated
- Any condition that can be treated with a course of medication
- Contagious disease that can be cured, expecting that such animals will be taken from the shelter and be fostered or placed in isolation at a veterinary care facility
- Behavioral issues that can be addressed by appropriate intervention
- Feline aids (FIV) and feline leukemia (FeLV) positive cats that can be adopted

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on 2/17/15

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Stas', is written over a horizontal line.