

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

WELFARE POLICY FOR IMPOUNDED ANIMALS

I. PURPOSE:

The Newtown Animal Control Facility is a place of safety for potentially adoptable animals. This policy is intended to provide support for the continuation of the Town's long-standing 'no-kill' practice. The policy herein will serve as a guideline for all personnel when considering the well-being and fate of animals impounded at the Newtown Animal Control Facility. Town government remains committed to a no-kill philosophy and there is nothing in this policy that should be construed as advocating the euthanizing of animals impounded at our control facility.

II. POLICY:

It is the belief of the Newtown community, supported by town government and the animal control program of the Town of Newtown that euthanizing any animal impounded in the Newtown Animal Control Facility should be avoided unless circumstances dictate euthanasia is the only reasonable course to pursue. Euthanasia will not be considered as a control for over-population at the Newtown Animal Control Facility.

III. PROCEDURES:

Newtown Animal Control personnel have the responsibility to the Town of Newtown to proceed with practices that will limit the danger and threat to the human and animal populations.

A. Medically Non-Sustainable- In the case of a diseased or injured animal for which no restorative action is reasonably available, a licensed veterinarian will make the recommendation to euthanize to the MACO who in turn will consult with an ACO. Only when those persons mutually agree on the euthanizing action, may the veterinarian proceed with a euthanasia procedure.

Euthanasia shall not be considered for any animal which is relatively healthy and which can be reasonably accommodated at the Animal Control Facility. Every effort must be put forth to locate appropriate homes for all animals housed at the Facility. These efforts must be fully documented and become part of each animal's case file.

B. Behaviorally Non-Sustainable- The euthanizing of any animal for aggressive behavior that has led to bodily harm to humans or other animals cannot occur unless the following conditions are met and **documented** in the case file of the animal:

1. Has every possible and reasonable effort been implemented to locate the owner of the animal in question?
2. Has every possible and reasonable effort been undertaken to find an appropriate home for the animal?
3. Is there a rescue shelter or a rescue group available to take custody of the animal?
4. Are there arrangements that can be made to temporarily house the animal in an alternate location?
5. Has the animal been professionally evaluated by an independent animal trainer to determine the suitability for a behavior modification program? If yes to the above question- has a suitable program been implemented without success?
6. Has a licensed veterinarian tested the animal for known health disorders associated with aggressive behavior? If yes to the above question, has the animal undergone all available treatment?

A licensed veterinarian may proceed with a euthanasia procedure only after the MACO*, ACO, licensed veterinarian*, trainer or animal behaviorist*, and Chief of Police or his/her designee, and the First Selectman or his/her designee have carefully and thoroughly reviewed the case file, and agree that euthanasia is the only appropriate course of action for that behaviorally non-sustainable animal.

- A checklist with signatures and comments for items 1-6 above is maintained with the file of each animal euthanized under this behaviorally non-sustainable category.

MACO – Municipal Animal Control Officer

ACO – Animal Control Officer

*For purposes of this policy: a) MACO is understood to be a municipal employee, not a member of the Town's police force; and b) the preferred veterinarian and trainer or animal behaviorist involved in the treatment and decision-making will have had experience with impounded/shelter animals.

Edited on March 4 for March 5, 2012, BoS discussion

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