

# North Fork Animal Welfare League's LIFESAVING POLICY ON EUTHANASIA

## EUTHANASIA DECISION MAKING POLICY

At the North Fork Animal Welfare League, euthanasia decisions are made by only a few key individuals. All shelter animal euthanasia decisions must be approved by the Executive Director, Shelter Veterinarian and President of the Board of Directors. Both the Executive Director, Shelter Veterinarian, and Board President are almost always available via cell phone or text message. In the extraordinary event the Executive Director, the Shelter Veterinarian, and the Board President are not available, an animal in severe distress can be euthanized with the approval of the Kennel Manager in conjunction with a local Clinic Veterinarian. The euthanasia must be reported to the Executive Director, Shelter Veterinarian and Board President as soon possible.

There are two categories of euthanasia.

- Medical Euthanasia, euthanasia of an irremediably suffering animal due to untreatable and unmanageable medical conditions. An irremediably suffering animal is any animal with a medical condition who has a poor or grave prognosis for being able to live without severe, unremitting pain.
- Behavioral Euthanasia, euthanasia of a vicious dog who has the propensity to or history of causing grievous bodily harm to humans or other animals whose prognosis for rehabilitation is poor or grave.

These categories are utilized based on an honest assessment of each animal's medical or behavioral ability to be saved and not based on subjective notions of adoptability. In cases of doubt, the default shall be a preference for lifesaving.