

Euthanasia SOP

Euthanasia, the acting of inducing a painless and stress free death. Adequate time and measures have been exercised to find homes or alternatives for these animals and euthanasia is the last resort. With this understanding, the following procedures and steps should be followed in their entirety with the greatest compassion:

Dogs

1. The selected dog is leashed and brought to the euthanasia room. These dogs are to be walked outside briefly in an area that allows them to relax, urinate and defecate. Those dogs that are reluctant to be leash lead or are a danger to the handler, should be transported in a wheeled cage cart.
2. The euthanasia room will have limited access only to those performing euthanasia.
3. Upon arrival the animal is to be weighed and placed on the euthanasia table. Muzzling prior to picking them up should be done at the discretion of the handler and injector considering everyone's safety. A towel on the table will make the animal more comfortable.
4. The animal's ID should be confirmed to match the description on the animal's paperwork. They should be scanned for microchips over their shoulder area. They should also be checked for tags or tattoos.
5. The animal should be sedated only if it is assessed to be a safety hazard in the judgment of the injector and handler. The sedative used is Xylazine /Ketamine (see dosing chart) and is administered in the rear leg muscle while being restrained by the handler. Place the dog in a holding cage for 10-15 minutes while the sedative takes affect.
6. Those dogs not requiring sedation should be held securely by the handler to with a goal to protect 1) the injector, 2) the handler, and 3) the animal.
7. Preparation for the injection by the injector includes:
 - Preparing Fatal Plus (1cc per 10 pounds of dog)
 - Using a tourniquet
 - Clipping the hair of long haired dogs
 - Pumping the paw to increase blood pressure
 - Stroking the leg with alcohol
8. The injector shall administer the Fatal Plus evaluating for a missed vein and stopping if signs are noted (swelling, pain on injection, resistance on injection, not responding to the injection).
9. The dog is laid on its right side and death verification shall be confirmed based on all the following signs being confirmed:
 - A Appearance of being dead (unconscious and no eye-blink reflexes)
 - B Breathing has stopped
 - C Cardiac (heart) stopped (based on stethoscope sounds and then observance of no movement of 1.5 inch needle in heart).
10. The Fatal Plus and Xylazine/Ketamine are recorded in the log book and then into the computer at the end of the day.
11. All drugs are to be returned to the safe when not in active use.
12. The dog is placed in a sturdy bag and removed from the euthanasia room.
13. The deceased dogs will be transported to the landfill for immediate burial.

Cats Similar procedures are applied except that IP (intraperitoneal) injections of Fatal Plus are to be used at 3 times the dog dosage. Fractious cats should be given an IP injection in a squeeze cage thereby eliminating the need for sedation in most cases.

All injuries or problems should be immediately reported to a supervisor.