

MID WEST CAT SHELTER
EUTHANASIA POLICY & GUIDELINES

Introduction

Euthanasia is the process used to end the life of an animal.

The purpose of euthanasia is to relieve the suffering of an animal, as a result of ill health or physical injury.

Euthanasia has been and continues to be used as a 'humane' way to get rid of unwanted animals, as for 'pests'. As domestic cats are considered 'companion animals', they do not fall under the heading of 'pest' and therefore should not be treated as such.

Policy Statement

The Association believes that euthanasia should only be used when

- a cat is suffering or is likely to suffer, as a result of ill health or physical injury
- when a cat is deemed by a knowledgeable person, to be dangerous to carers, the community or other animals
- in extenuating circumstances where the cat is deemed by a knowledgeable person – not able to be rehomed.

Guidelines

Euthanasia should only be carried out, by or under the supervision of, a qualified veterinarian.

Euthanasia should not be used as a 'solution' to homelessness or a perceived overpopulation of domestic cats.

| Version | Author | Date Passed |
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