



## **Vanderburgh Humane Society Euthanasia Policy**

Our goal is to place every healthy animal that comes in our doors. Although we are not there yet, we are proud of the progress that we have made toward that goal over the years. Our adoption program (consisting of a strong medical treatment program, fostering program, and shelter transfer efforts ) combined with programs offered by our Humane Education Department and our Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic are allowing us to save more animals than ever before in our history; but despite these efforts, we are not able to save every animal who comes in. There are simply more animals than there are people adopting.

We are an open-admission shelter, meaning we do not turn away animals that have nowhere else to go. (Residents of Vanderburgh County should take stray animals to Evansville Animal Care & Control although we do accept strays as space is available.) We realize that turning animals away would result, in some cases, in those animals being abandoned, otherwise abused/neglected or trapped in situations where they are not wanted.

The current policy we follow is:

- We provide euthanasia for shelter animals if they come into our shelter seriously ill or injured or become seriously ill or injured during their stay. Under the direction of a licensed veterinarian and trained medical staff, the VHS provides medical treatment (treatment for heartworms, upper respiratory, mange, abscesses, and other conditions or injuries) to hundreds of animals every year. Unfortunately, due to space/resource limitations, not every unhealthy animal can be treated.
- We are not able to place animals that are human-aggressive. These animals are humanely euthanized.
- Aggression toward other animals is considered, on an individual basis, as a factor in deciding whether an animal is adoptable. If deemed dangerous to other animals, these animals may be euthanized to protect other pets.
- There are also times when more animals come in than we can humanely house, due to both space & time limitations and expenses. Even with foster homes, there is a limit to space and our financial resources, which include veterinary services and supplies.

We regard each animal's life as precious and decisions to euthanize are never taken lightly. We will continue to work toward the goal of placing all healthy animals in loving homes and toward educating the public about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets in an attempt to reduce pet overpopulation and the need for euthanasia.