

# Euthanasia Policy

## 1. Introduction

The Charity strongly believes that euthanasia of any animal should be a last resort and only when in the interest of the animal, to relieve or prevent suffering. The charity will not euthanise a healthy animal. The Charity though accepts that in certain circumstances, we have to make the difficult decision to euthanise an animal to alleviate pain, suffering or distress, where treatment will not allow an animal to have an acceptable quality of life.

Taking the responsible decision to euthanise any animal is a sad but an unavoidable part of animal welfare work. This policy applies to all animals that come into the care of the Charity, to ensure they are protected from any unnecessary suffering as stated in the “Animal welfare act 2006”.

## 2. Application

Euthanasia will be carried out when;

**Pets and Farm Animals** - In the opinion of or on the advice of a veterinary professional, the animal has an illness or injury that’s so severe that it would be deemed inhumane to begin or continue treatment.

**Wildlife** – In the opinion of or on the advice of a veterinary professional, or an experienced member of our Wildlife Hospital Team;

- The animal has an illness or injury that’s so severe that it would be deemed inhumane to begin or continue treatment, or;
- When life in captivity would be one of fear, or distress or stress resulting in physical and or mental suffering.