



# City of Denton

City Hall  
215 E. McKinney Street  
Denton, Texas  
[www.cityofdenton.com](http://www.cityofdenton.com)

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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Animal Services

**DCM:** Cassey Ogden, Deputy City Manager

**DATE:** May 14, 2025

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff feedback regarding the proposed Responsible Euthanasia Policy.

### **BACKGROUND**

Denton Animal Services (DAS) is charged with providing for public safety in relation to animals in the community, and the welfare of animals in its care at the Linda McNatt Animal Care and Control Center. To that end, DAS has developed a Responsible Euthanasia Policy that strictly limits euthanasia to cases of severe health, behavioral issues, or public safety concerns—and only after all humane alternatives have been fully explored.

Recognizing the absence of a standardized euthanasia decision making process in the animal welfare industry, DAS conducted a comprehensive review of best practices from advocacy groups, municipal shelters, rescues, and industry experts. The resulting policy has been tailored to meet DAS's specific operational requirements while remaining compliant with state and local regulations.

Key elements of the policy include establishing limits for euthanasia, including a prohibition of the euthanasia of animals on days the shelter is closed to the public, prohibition of euthanasia due to space constraints, and establishing the categories and criteria for when a euthanasia decision should be made. Additionally, the policy establishes a review process to consider the animal's condition, prognosis, and DAS' ability to provide adequate care. The Review Team, consisting of medical and animal welfare professionals, are responsible for reviewing each individual animal and providing their expertise to ensure the best course of action for the animal.

To facilitate the review process, the Welfare Assessment Tool was developed. These flow charts ensure all decision points and options have been considered and exhausted for every animal who is being considered for euthanasia. A draft of the policy, along with the Welfare Assessment Tool, was reviewed with internal staff, contracted veterinary staff, and subject matter experts from Best Friends Animal Society, Autin Pets Alive, and Shelter Savvy.

On November 13, 2024, DAS staff presented a draft of the policy to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee and solicited feedback. No changes or edits were recommended by the committee at that time.

The Responsible Euthanasia Policy has additionally been reviewed by the City's legal department and the Policy Review Committee and will be presented to City Council at the May 20, 2025, Council Meeting for review and discussion.

At this time, DAS is seeking a recommendation from the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee to Council for the formal adoption of the Responsible Euthanasia Policy.

**OPTIONS**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT**

Proposed policy will be presented to City Council at the May 20, 2025, Council Meeting for review and discussion.

**PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)**

On November 13, 2024, DAS staff presented a draft of the policy to the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee and solicited feedback. No changes or edits were recommended by the committee at that time.

**EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1 – Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2 – Presentation

Exhibit 3 – DRAFT Responsible Euthanasia Policy

Respectfully submitted:  
Nikki Sassenus, Animal Services