

Greyhound Gap – Euthanasia Policy

As an organisation Greyhound Gap strives to ensure that all animals entering their care have a sound quality of life and that their needs are met and considered at all times. Euthanasia is an emotive subject for any rescue organisation and below is an honest appraisal of our guidelines.

Greyhound Gap will commit to not euthanise animals due to time or space constraints placed on us as an organisation and euthanasia will be the very last option once all other avenues have been explored and exhausted.

When euthanasia becomes necessary

Greyhound Gap will consider euthanasia a necessary option once the animal's quality of life becomes detrimental and will not enable suffering or at a point that the animal becomes a risk to any other person/persons or animals in a home environment and can not be kept satisfactorily managed and fulfilled within our own kennels base.

Euthanasia may be considered in the following circumstances

Deterioration of health and mental state

Greyhound Gap believe fully in ascertaining a viable behaviour modification programme for each dog in their care. Enrichment and positive reward based training and one on one care can often benefit even the most difficult dog. Should we feel a dog is not suitable to be placed into a home environment and is suffering prolonged stress or showing deterioration in physical or mental condition in our kennels facility alongside advice from qualified behaviourists and veterinary surgeons it may be deemed best for the animal to be euthanised. Greyhound Gap will also in every instance strive to manage long term illnesses and palliative care for all animals and will remain alive to advice from our qualified veterinary surgeons to options and when euthanasia becomes to be in the animal's best interests.

Behaviours that become a risk to care givers

Greyhound Gap has rigorous relationship building programmes in place for the animals within our care at our kennels facility. Certain dogs who are undergoing long term rehabilitation are only to be handled by our members of staff. If at such a time a dog's behaviour deteriorates to a degree that they become a risk to those care givers euthanasia may need to be explored as an option. This will be done with advice from qualified behaviourists and our veterinary surgeons.

In every instance Greyhound Gap will strive to look for alternatives for the animals in their care. If behaviour deterioration is deemed to be due to kennel stress after a full assessment we will aim to secure a suitable foster home environment for the dog. If a dog is deemed to be a risk in a home/foster environment the dog will be suitably housed and cared for at our kennels facility with suitably experienced staff who will continue to address, modify and oversee the dogs physical and mental state and rehabilitation. Animals with ongoing medical and palliative care needs will also be placed into foster home situations on a permanent and ongoing basis. In these instances the rescue will remain responsible for all ongoing medical costs and the foster families will receive full back up and support.

In the eventuality that euthanasia becomes the only option for any animal in our care we will seek to carry this out with least stress possible to the animal. Euthanasia may only be carried out by a qualified veterinary surgeon using humane approved methods. In some instances of illness or injury it may not be suitable for a dog to travel to a veterinary surgeons and as such Greyhound Gap will ensure a qualified veterinary surgeon travels to the dog.

Any decision to euthanise will remain completely transparent and if requested by supporters should be provided. Full details and consideration should be noted on any animals records and figures disclosed on our annual report.