Euthanasia Policy

Safe Haven Rescue Kennel* is a no-kill rescue and sanctuary facility. We do not euthanize due to time constraints or due to an animal's breed or age or considered dangerous to themselves, other animals, and/or humans. Euthanasia is reserved for dogs that are terminally ill and at end-stage whose quality of life is in question. Euthanasia is humanely performed by a licensed veterinarian.

We confront dogs suffering from a wide range of injuries, illnesses, and behavioral conditions. Our policy at Safe Haven Rescue Kennel has been always to provide for the long term welfare of each and every dog that comes into Safe Haven.

When a dog is not able to be placed for adoption due to complex medical or behavior issues, we do not transfer to another rescue organization rather we carefully manage them and are integrated into Safe Haven for life. They are given a comfortable place for decompressing and healing in a spacious healthy environment. Even the long term or permanent-placement residents enjoy the freedom of a fun and interactive lifestyle.

When it comes to euthanasia, there is no one size fits all policy. Each dog's situation needs to be weighted individually with our vets and decided on a case by case basis. This policy should be seen as a general guideline as to what goes into making the decision for euthanasia.

This policy applies to all dogs in the direct care of Safe Haven whether at a Safe Haven facility or in a foster home. Adopters should refer to their Adoption Agreement for their responsibilities regarding euthanasia. At no time may an adopter authorize euthanasia of a dog for anything other than a life-threatening emergency, and only after all attempts to reach Safe Haven has failed. A life threatening emergency is defined as a fatal inquiry or condition that causes severe pain that cannot be reasonably relieved.