



Travellers Rest Farm Sanctuary
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Humane Euthanasia Policy

Policy approved by the Board of Directors on 6/30/2019

Travellers Rest Farm Sanctuary's (TRFS) policy on euthanasia is that no healthy or otherwise treatable horse will be euthanized when alternatives exist to save it. Euthanasia is reserved solely for ending the suffering of a horse that has experienced serious and irreversible reduction in the quality of his or her life. While this is a difficult choice, we approach this decision from the perspective of what is in the best interest of the horse.

Euthanasia is considered purely as an act of mercy and reserved for situations when a horse is irremediably suffering, and one or more veterinarians have determined that the horse is not a candidate for rehabilitation and has no chance of recovering an acceptable quality of life.

TRFS does not practice population control through euthanasia. All horses in our care are considered treatable unless determined otherwise by our team of expert veterinarians.

Humane euthanasia shall be employed:

- When an equine is not mobile and a veterinarian is of the opinion that mobility will not return
- When the equine's quality of life is deemed, with veterinary guidance, so poor that euthanasia is the most humane option
- When an equine is experiencing continual pain for which there is no medical relief
- When an equine is dangerous to him or herself or other animals or humans
- When an equine is experiencing a medical event that can't be treated

Method of Euthanasia

The only methods of euthanasia that TRFS finds acceptable are those recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Euthanasia shall only be administered by a licensed veterinarian, except in emergency circumstances where the equine is injured beyond recovery and is suffering irreversibly. The carcass shall be disposed of in compliance with all relevant laws.

Reference: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/avma-guidelines-euthanasia-animals>

Revision of the Code

This code of ethics will be reviewed periodically and revised as the BOD sees a need.