

## **GCHS EUTHANASIA POLICY** **(Effective 2/29/12)**

Animals will not be euthanized due to lack of space, breed, treatable injury or treatable illness. Every attempt will be made to care for all animals at the shelter. There may be occasions due to extreme injury, illness, suffering and/or pain when the shelter veterinarian recommends euthanizing an animal. In the event that euthanasia is recommended, the Executive Director will notify the Chair of the Euthanasia Committee and provide information to be shared with the committee. The Chair of the Euthanasia Committee will contact committee members immediately, call for a simple majority vote, and immediately notify the Executive Director of their decision. Euthanasia will take place within 24-48 hours or sooner (depending on the time/day of availability of the veterinarian). In the event the committee overturns the veterinarian's decision, the Board President will be notified by the Executive Director of the committee's decision. The Board President has the authority to take the committee decision to the full board for further discussion and vote.

### **Occasions when euthanasia may be necessary include:**

- When picking up an injured animal, per the Police Department and /or Sheriff's Office, and the animal is gravely injured, and/or non-responsive. In this situation, the Euthanasia Committee does not have to be contacted since the authority for euthanizing an animal is coming from the law enforcement agency, however, the Board President will be notified by the Executive Director of the situation.
- When an animal is in the final stages of death and/or bodily functions (kidney, liver, etc.) are failing and the animal is showing signs of pain and suffering.
- When an animal is in such pain due to illness/injury and pain and medications are not giving adequate relief causing the animal to endure prolonged suffering.