

PRC Shelter Euthanasia Reporting Performance Measures

At Hillsborough Pet Resource Center (PRC), euthanasia decisions are often the toughest to execute. PRC has a knowledgeable team of experts making the determinations when it is in the best interest of the animal and the public. Often, it can be mandated by law. These categories of euthanasia have been highlighted and separated to better understand the effectiveness of the shelter's lifesaving efforts.

Euthanasia is broken down into three distinct categories.

1. Owner requested euthanasia:
 - a. PRC will euthanize on request a Hillsborough County resident's pet only when there is a moral, ethical, legal or community safety reasons. These animals are not included in the statistics.
 - b. PRC will not euthanize for "convenience" but will take in an owner relinquished pet. These animals will be brought into the shelter as "live intake" and included in the statistics.
2. Euthanasia will be performed to end pain and suffering or ethical quality of life issues. This is a decision made only by the discretion of the veterinary team.
3. Euthanasia can be performed for the public's safety. Hillsborough County Animal Control and PRC have a mandate to provide for the safety of people and their pets. Each year about 200 dogs meet the requirements to be declared "dangerous" and have their lives ended with euthanasia. Scientific evidence has proven a dog which has caused severe injury from a bite will repeat the behavior if placed in the same circumstances 100% of the time, therefore, the risk is too high to allow these dogs to remain in the community. Also, the Hillsborough Health Department is also tasked with rabies monitoring for public safety.

Thanks to everyone in the community for raising awareness of the previous high rate of euthanasia in Hillsborough County. This commitment from the public and policy makers brought us to have one of the lowest euthanasia rates among open-admission public shelters in the nation.

[A new reporting format was created to better understand euthanasia. This will be seen in differing "save", "live outcome" and "lifesaving" rates based on the formulas identified and related assumptions.]