# Euthanasia

Purpose

To identify and mark a horse for euthanasia and to ensure any horse requiring euthanasia is correctly added to the euthanasia list. The DFL Equine Evaluation Criteria shall be used to determine if a horse qualifies for euthanasia.

Responsibilities/Scope

All personnel are responsible for following the euthanasia procedure. All euthanasia will be performed by a licensed veterinarian. Euthanasia must be approved by the Equine Center Manager or the Vice President of Field and Equine Services.

Procedures

Euthanasia Identification

1. Once a horse has been deemed unhealthy or untreatable by a manager, supervisor, or a staff person certified to perform evaluations, using the Definitions and Standards in Equine Evaluation, OR has been immediately approved by the attending Veterinarian and on-duty manager or supervisor, the reason will be marked on the stall card. For example, a horse that is being marked for euthanasia for aggressive behaviors will be assigned the category of U/U Eval/Agg. This category will be placed on the stall card.
2. Prior to euthanasia, the animals file and all court documents shall be reviewed to verify that there are no unresolved holds or issues that would prevent the horse from being euthanized, such as bond, brand inspection or evidence holds.
3. Prior to euthanasia, the animal will be scanned for a microchip. If a microchip is found, the Equine Center Manager will be notified and euthanasia will not be performed until the microchip is cleared.
4. All information and marketing material (ie. DFL website, Equidopt, DreamHorse) must be removed 24 hours prior to the animal being euthanized.

Euthanasia Assister and/or Staff Responsibilities

1. Be available, by cell phone or page, to respond to any euthanasia needs during assigned shift.
2. Respond to requests for euthanasia needs and coordinate meeting location with euthanasia requester.
3. Collect horse card from the stall and file from the office or from the euthanasia holder.
4. Confirm the identity of the horse to be euthanized by comparing all of the following items:
   * Horse number on card to horse number in the file
   * Horse to horse description
   * Horse to horse picture
   * Tag number to tag number

\* Note: In some cases, such as an aggressive horse, the horse may not have a tag number.

1. Confirm disposition decision by taking the following step:
   * Read all horse memos and treatment entries. Verify all appropriate placement options have been checked and resolved. Verify all holds on the horse have been resolved
2. Discuss behavior and safety concerns noted with the attending veterinarian. Decide together on appropriate course of restraint and method of euthanasia.
3. When possible the equine will be euthanized at the intake barn in the round pen. If an equine cannot be moved then euthanasia will take place in one of the indoor arenas when possible.

Definitions

DFL Equine Evaluation Criteria

Change Summary

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Author** |
| 2/1/12 | Original Creation | Mindy Trautman |
| 1/2/13 | Microchip procedure added | Tina Wheeler |
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