**Model “Euthanasia” Form**

**1. Animal Identification:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_\_ am/pm

ANIMAL:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ If owned name was changed by staff, new name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Species:

 ⬜ Dog

 ⬜ Cat

 ⬜ Rabbit

 ⬜ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Animal ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tag Verification:

 ⬜ No

 ⬜ Yes. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sex:

 ⬜ Male

 ⬜ Female

Sterilization Status:

 ⬜ Sterilized

 ⬜ Intact

 ⬜ Unknown

Tattoo:

 ⬜ No

 ⬜ Yes. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Animal Color: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Animal Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Identifying Markings: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

⬜ Picture verification (verify animal matches photo in shelter management software)

Age:

 ⬜ Neonate

 ⬜ Young

 ⬜ Juvenile

 ⬜ Young adult

 ⬜ Adult

 ⬜ Older adult

 ⬜ Geriatric

Size:

 ⬜ Small

 ⬜ Medium

 ⬜ Large

 ⬜ X-large

If cat, ear tip:

 ⬜ No

 ⬜ Yes. ⬜ TNR group contacted. Result: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If healthy stray cat, then return to habitat: DO NOT PROCEED

Microchip:

 ⬜ No

 ⬜ Yes. ⬜ Owner contacted. Result: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Collar:

 ⬜ No

 ⬜ Yes. Color: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Impound:

 ⬜ Owner surrendered. Name and telephone number in notes: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ Stray. Location where found: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ Seized

 ⬜ Protective custody

 ⬜ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Who Impounded:

 ⬜ ACO

 ⬜ Police. Department: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ Resident Stray (Over the Counter)

 ⬜ Resident Turn-In

**2. Reason for “Euthanasia”**

 ⬜ Euthanasia - Animal is irremediably suffering[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

 ⬜ Court ordered - Compulsory as matter of law

 ⬜ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Prior Actions Taken**

 ⬜ Out of cage/kennel space verified

 ⬜ Out of group housing verified

 ⬜ Out of space for temporary housing verified

 ⬜ Holding period has expired.

 Date of impound: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Date hold period ends:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ Checked against lost list. Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other Active Holds⬜

 ⬜ No

 ⬜ Owner/Finder

 ⬜ Rescue

 ⬜ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

48 hour posts:

 ⬜ To Social Media:

 Date of post:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Time of post: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Platform:

 ⬜ Facebook

 ⬜ Twitter

 ⬜ Instagram

 ⬜ Craigslist

 ⬜ Email

 ⬜ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ To Volunteers (foster/adoption):

 Date of plea:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Time of plea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Method(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ To Rescue Groups:

 Date of plea:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Time of plea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Method(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ To Former Owner/Finder:

 Date of plea:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Time of plea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Method(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ To Other Shelters:

 Date of plea:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Time of plea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Method(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ To Impounding Officer:

 Date of plea:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Time of plea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Method(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

STOP: Extraordinary situations call for creativity and outside the box thinking, not killing after checking off all the boxes. If the prior actions taken have proven unsuccessful, try others. Convene a meeting of staff, reach out to rescuers and volunteers, and employ the media to reach the public. Honesty, transparency, creativity, and calls for assistance are key. An alternative to killing can always be found.

**4. Medical Review (For Injury/Illness Related Killing)**

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How diagnosis was determined: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Treating Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prognosis:

 ⬜ Excellent

 ⬜ Good

 ⬜ Guarded

 ⬜ Poor

 ⬜ Grave. Animal irremediably suffering:

 ⬜ No

 ⬜ Yes

If prognosis excellent, good, or guarded, rehabilitation efforts

attempted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Dog**[[2]](#footnote-2)\* **“Aggression” Review**

Legal Proceedings:

 ⬜ Judicially declared to be dangerous by court of law

 ⬜ Ordered destroyed after dangerous dog determination

 ⬜ Appeal period has passed.

 Date of ruling: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Date appeal period ends: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ Copy of judicial order attached

Bite Incident:

 ⬜ Bit a volunteer, staff member, or member of the public while in the custody of the shelter

 ⬜ Bit owner or a member of the public while in the custody of owner

 ⬜ Approached and bit a person while roaming stray

 ⬜ Killed or seriously injured another animal in the shelter

 ⬜ Killed or seriously injured another animal in own home

 ⬜ Killed or seriously injured another animal while roaming stray

Behavior Review:

 ⬜ Medical Evaluation to rule out medical origin. Veterinarian who cleared dog of medical origin for behavior: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ Play group behavior review

 ⬜ Foster care behavior review

 ⬜ Other ‘real world’ evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of individual(s) who conducted review(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Findings: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ Incident notes confirmed

 ⬜ Incident report attached

Name of employee confirming incident: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ Behaviorist Consulted

 ⬜ Rehabilitation efforts attempted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

72-Hour Notification to:

 ⬜ Volunteers

 ⬜ Staff

 ⬜ Rescuers

Dissent:

 ⬜ Dissent(s) received. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ⬜ Statement of dissent attached.

 ⬜ Response by Executive Director to dissent attached.

**Signatures:**

Form Completed By (name): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Review (name): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Executive Director Review: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. \* An animal is irremediably suffering if she/he has a poor or grave prognosis for being able to live without severe, unremitting *physical* pain even with prompt, necessary, and comprehensive veterinary care. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \* **Cats (and other animals) do not pose similar safety risks. While it is not ethical to kill any animal for reasons other than irremediable suffering, there is no need to delay finding homes for cats deemed “fractious.” They can be sterilized and returned to their habitats if they are not social with humans or are accustomed to living outdoors. Or they can simply be adopted out as people will adopt cats with “catitude.” In fact, over 15 years ago, the animal control-contracted shelter in Tompkins County, New York, eliminated any “behavior category” for cats and thus any killing of cats for “behavior,” “aggression,” or being “feral.” This is not to say that cats who experience behavior issues in the shelter do not warrant changes in shelter housing, shelter treatment, and behavior intervention to address those needs. They do. They can, however, be adopted out despite those issues because resolution of behavior challenges is almost always done by getting them out of the shelter. For those needing further treatment, treatment in the home post-adoption will be more effective and focused.** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)