The Humane Society of Tampa Bay Euthanasia Policy and Guidelines

The Humane Society of Tampa Bay is a "No-Kill" (also known as "No-Kill for Space") shelter. This means we maintain a live-release rate of 90% or greater and do not euthanize an animal to make room for another. We take in animals from the public, including owner surrenders, stray surrenders, and transfers from other sheltering facilities. Because we are not a sanctuary and have limited space and resources, we are unable to let unadoptable animals live in the shelter until they pass from natural causes. Furthermore, we believe that forcing an animal to live in a cage for the entirety of their lives is inhumane. In cases when an animal is deemed unadoptable, we will make the difficult and heart-wrenching decision to humanely euthanize. This decision is not taken lightly, and the animals are euthanized with dignity, respect, and compassionate care by a certified euthanasia technician.

Euthanasia is humanely ending an animal's life to minimize or eliminate pain and suffering due to illness, injury, or mental/behavioral instability. Animals at the Humane Society of Tampa Bay may be euthanized for the following reasons:

- If an animal is experiencing intense suffering or poor quality of life due to illness, injury, or prolonged abuse or neglect
- If an animal is unsafe and poses a danger to staff, volunteers, other animals, and the community
- If an animal has a contagious disease that cannot be contained and will jeopardize the health of hundreds of other shelter animals