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From: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com on behalf of lissa [lissa@lissa.net]
Sent: Saturday, June 18, 2005 11:27 PM
To: ExtMAGDRL@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [ExtMAGDRL] DOE Topic #19: Euthanasia

Hi All,

I'm broaching a sad topic this week, but one that we animal lovers may have to face at some point: Euthanasia. We may deal with it as rescue volunteers or with our own pets, so better that we are educated so that we do what's best for them when the time comes. I am presenting this as Dog Owner Education Topic #19.

I last encountered euthanasia with my Dane Jacob in 2003. After calling my vet in advance to rule out any other options, Jacob and I went to her office. I signed the release paperwork and we went into a basement room away from other animals. I put Jacob into a down-stay and sat down with him on the floor while the vet administered a pre-euthanasia sedative. Jacob nuzzled my neck and I hugged him, and he became very calm. A few minutes later when he had fallen asleep in my arms, the vet administered a final shot of sodium pentobarbital. Although this was the saddest of all situations, at least it was not traumatic for Jacob. It was the gentlest ending I could wish for him.

In talking with friends, shelter workers, animal researchers, and my APHIS cohorts in Wildlife Services and Veterinary Services, I realized that my vet took the most humane approach to euthanasia. However, many other approaches are used here in the U.S. and not all are especially humane.

I am sharing the following links in case you ever have to face this tough decision:

A Gentle Death, A Painful Decision (when to let go.)
<http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/euthanasia.htm>

Making the decision to Euthanize
<http://www.valleyhumanesociety.org/know/vetscorner/index.cfm?contact=readstory&articleid=56>

Pet Euthanasia: The Facts (multi-part series.)
<http://www.pets2rest.co.uk/animaleuthanasia.htm>

Euthanasia: The Compassionate Option (discusses good and bad approaches.)
<http://www.peta.org.uk/factsheet/files/FactsheetDisplay.asp?ID=181>

HS-International: Euthanasia Methods for dogs and cats
http://files.hsus.org/web-files/HSI/E_Library_PDFs/eng_euth_statement.pdf

Please hug your fur-kids every day you are lucky enough to have them. And as always, thanks for educating yourselves to benefit dogs and their owners.

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"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings