

SINGAPORE VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

ANG MO KIO CENTRAL POST OFFICE
P.O. Box 821, SINGAPORE 915611, REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE.
www.sva.org.sg | sva@sva.org.sg



Singapore Veterinary Association (SVA) Statement on the Euthanasia of Pets and the Veterinary Profession's Responsibilities to Safeguard Animal Health, Animal Welfare and Public Health & Safety

Euthanasia of a pet is a complex and solemn decision made with careful consideration of all circumstances and various possible treatment options for the pet. Euthanasia of an animal patient is a stressful event for many pet owners and veterinarians, and is not taken lightly.

Part of the burden of euthanising pets falls onto the shoulders of veterinarians, a profession that undergoes rigorous training in animal health and welfare, regulated by a licensing regime and a robust disciplinary system. It is a heavy responsibility and mentally stressful for veterinarians, who themselves are animal lovers, to end the life of any animal.

The Code of Ethics for Veterinarians provides guidelines for the euthanasia of animals. This necessitates professional judgment by veterinarians to effectively apply the standards, laws and ethics that govern veterinary practice, factoring in animal health, animal welfare, public safety and safety of the pet owners.

The current Code was jointly reviewed with the former Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA). SVA is committed to continue working with the Animal and Veterinary Service (AVS)/NParks to ensure the Code remains relevant.

It is not appropriate for the SVA to comment on specific cases including those that are under investigation or legal proceedings.

SVA Executive Committee

13-May-20