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Life or Death For Our Furry Friends?

Should it be acceptable for people to end their pets' lives through the process of euthanasia? People decide to get pets all the time some are used for work, and some are a source of companionship. Whatever the reason for taking on the task of bringing an animal into your life: there are responsibilities. If a person chooses to adopt or buy an animal, they have then committed themselves to caring for that animal. This means buying food for your pet as well as caring for their basic needs such as health. Therefore, if your pet becomes sick, you have made the obligation to take them to the vet and pay for their bills for shot and surgeries. Though, if financially costs will break you then is it okay to use euthanasia? No, try to find a new home for the pet because putting down an animal that is still capable of being healthy and living longer is wrong. Times that euthanasia should be permitted to be used is when an animal has an illness that is terminal or has become dangerous. Other than that putting a perfectly healthy animal to sleep is wrong. Consequently, not only are individual people to blame for euthanizing pets for the wrong reasons, but so are shelters that don't have a no-kill policy.

People decide to euthanize their pets for a number of reasons. which is discussed in the book, *Surviving the Heartbreak of Choosing Death for Your Pet*. This book is by Linda Peterson and she dedicates chapter two, to reasons why people decide to put their pets down. This chapter is titled "Three Types of Euthanasia Experiences" (Peterson 19). Reason one given for going through with the euthanasia process is "terminal illness or bodily deterioration from old age"

(Peterson 19). “Emergency euthanasia: usually the result of serious accidental injury that is financially catastrophic or not repairable” is reason two for euthanasia (Peterson 19). Putting an animal down because the injury is not repairable should be allowed. Yet, going through with euthanasia because surgery is expensive isn’t right. The process of euthanasia is also an expensive procedure. Last reason discussed in chapter two of Peterson’s book is “euthanasia of a healthy pet due to unresolvable behavior or temperament problems, or the pet owner’s inability to continue care for the pet” (Peterson 19). People should make an effort to do whatever it takes to save a pet’s life since they took the responsibility of bringing the animal in their home and making them part of the family. That being said, if a person’s pet becomes dangerous to have after professional help the idea of euthanasia should be discussed. This can be supported by a statement from Patricia B. McConnell who is an applied animal behaviorist “No one begins a conversation about whether their dog should be put down for aggressive behavior if there haven’t been several incidents (or one horrifically serious one)” (McConnell 1). Therefore, It shouldn’t be alright however to put down a healthy animal because of the owner’s inability to care for the pet. If the owner realizes that they aren’t able to care for their pet anymore they should look into finding another home for them.

If an animal develops behavior problems and becomes aggressive, there are a few steps to take before going straight to euthanasia. A pet owner should try to seek professional help to try to fix the animal’s attitude. “Euthanizing Aggressive Dogs: Sometimes It’s the Best Choice.” In this article a man talks about his experience he had with his aggressive dog named Dodger. He said the dog “had a thorough medical work up, and went on the anti-anxiety medication” (vetzinsight 1). Though the medication didn’t fix Dodger’s behavior, the man tried professional help. He got ahold of “a certified trainer, a woman highly experienced in dog aggression”

(vetzinsight 1). After going the extra mile and trying his best to improve Dodger's behavior, the dog's attitude still hadn't changed. One night Dodger had bitten the man and sent him tumbling down some stairs. At this moment Dodger's owner knew he had done all he could do and it was time to put the dog down. Dodger's owner said "this choice - and it didn't feel like a choice, but something I had to do - is not one everyone would make, I know. However, we would all be safer if more people euthanized dogs whose behavior cannot be improved after professional assistance"(vetzinsight 1). I totally agree with this statement because when I was younger my dad had been bitten real bad by a dog and was rushed to the emergency room. Though, time to time I look back on the events and think what if I was the person who was bitten by that dog or another child was. The outcome wouldn't have been as fortunate, I probably would have died because my legs were a lot smaller than my father's. Plus that dog took a huge chunk out of his leg. The owners of the dog asked my father if they could do anything for him. His reply was "yes, you could put that dog down." Unfortunately, even after everything that happened the dog was not put to sleep in a time when euthanasia was imperative. Then just a couple years later my brother was being babysat and walked down the road close to where this dog's home was and also was attacked. Luckily the dog didn't bite him as bad as my dad so he was ok. Though, this is an excellent example of when it is perfectly fine to euthanize an animal. In addition, the guy in the vetzinsight article took extra steps before euthanizing Dodger. He put the dog on medicine for anxiety then gave that a while. When the dog's temper hadn't changed he sought professional assistance. Then when attacked that was the final straw and the guy decided his dog was dangerous to have around.

A collection of animal shelters have animals put down every day because of the lack of space. This is very unfortunate because many animals that have nothing wrong with them whatsoever lose their lives. "Imagine a working environment in which 50% of those around you die every day" (Maddie's Fund 1). Why would people want to work at a shelter if half the

animals they work with get euthanized every day? Also a lot of people who work in shelters work there because they actually are animal lovers. So instead of euthanizing all those animals, why not ship them to another shelter such as the ASPCA which keeps the animals till they are adopted or die from natural causes. Also another process that could result in less animals being brought to shelters would be if people neutered or spayed their pets. If a person wanted to actually breed their pets that would be one thing. This is because when people purposely try to get their animals to have babies they usually are planning on caring for the animals and selling the puppies or kitten or whatever other animal it may be. Though, when a person's pet accidentally gets pregnant, the babies are more likely to get taken to a shelter. For this reason the Maddie's Fund was set up "to provide financial support to rescue groups working with local animal control shelters, traditional shelters, and private practice veterinarians to end the killing of healthy and treatable shelter dogs and cats" (Maddie's Fund 1).

Some people choose to euthanize their animals because they start to become too expensive. Page nineteen of Linda Peterson's book; *Surviving the Heartbreak of Choosing Death for Your Pet* further backs up that people do in fact euthanize animals for this reason. The third reason in Peterson's book for why people choose to put down their animals was "euthanasia of a healthy pet due to unresolvable behavior or temperament problems, or the pet owner's inability to continue care for the pet" (Peterson 19). Inability to care for a pet, whatever the circumstances is not a justifiable excuse to take an animals life especially when a person wanted to have a pet in the first place. When making the decision on whether to get a pet people should first determine if they can financially be able to handle adding a new member to the household. Rather than later figuring out they can't support the animal and resorting to euthanasia. Other ideas than putting a dog down could be finding someone else who wants a pet or taking the pet to a trustworthy

animal shelter. Killing a perfectly healthy animal is wrong! Just think if financially it became hard to care for your own child would you put them down?

Earlier a question was asked, which was, should it be acceptable for people to end their pets' lives through the process of euthanasia? The answer to this question is that only in certain circumstances should people turn to euthanasia. These include the pet having a terminal illness or the pet having temperament problems that were addressed but didn't get resolved. Therefore, the pet became dangerous to have around. Also, if an animal has an emergency surgery and it's not going very well that would be a good enough reason to put the animal down. Though, if euthanasia is used in cases where a person is unable to keep supporting their pet euthanasia is unjustified. So think about all the healthy animals that "Maddie's Fund" is trying to salvage. Then think about the fifty percent of all the animals in every kill shelter that become deceased each day. Does that seem fair to the animals at all? It wouldn't be justifiable to just kill a human so is it really ok to put down a harmless healthy animal?

Works Cited

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Linda Mary Peterson's books. Linda Mary Peterson Average rating: 4.2. 10 ratings 1 review 1 distinct work. Surviving the Heartbreak of Choosing Death for Your Pet. 4.20 avg rating 10 ratings published 1997. Want to Read saving | Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Error rating book. Refresh and try again. Rate this book. Clear rating. 1 of 5 stars 2 of 5 stars 3 of 5 stars 4 of 5 stars 5 of 5 stars. * Note: these are all the books on Goodreads for this author. To add more, click here. Upcoming Events. No scheduled events. Add an event. Is this you? Let us know. If not, help out and 11. That book is by a famous anthropologist. It's about the people in Samoa ____C____ for two years. A. that she lived. The chair which/that Sally inherited from her grandmother is an antique. 2. Did you read the book? It describes California. DID You read the book which /that describes California? 7. In hot weather, many people enjoy lemonade, which is a drink that is made from lemon juice, water, and sugar. In hot weather, many people enjoy lemonade, a drink made from lemon juice, water, and sugar. 8. I was awakened by the sound of laughter which came from the room which was next to mine at the motel. I Was awakened by the sound of laughter coming from the room next to mine at the motel.

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Return to Book Page. Not the book you're looking for? Preview "Surviving the Heartbreak of Choosing Death for Your Pet" by Linda Mary Peterson. Surviving the Heartbreak of Choosing Death for Your Pet. by. Linda Mary Peterson. 4.20 - Rating details. - 10 ratings - 1 review. Pets offer many advantages such as providing people with companionship, house security and enhancing nice behavior among children. . +Pets give you companionship. +Pets guard houses and save people's lives. In many cases, people choose to keep dogs for their home security. The houses will become safer because strangers might be scared that they will be attacked by the animals inside. Cats and dogs are particularly likely to cause distress upon death because they offer so much more in return for their care than many other pets e.g. snakes, tortoises, hamsters; such pets are less intelligent and thus less responsive to the master's voice, to being called by name, and to being trained. Indeed, most small animals, and, as far as I know, *all* reptiles, cannot be trained to any extent.