



NorCal Boxer Rescue Euthanasia Policy

Our mission is to save as many lives as possible, and as such, we go to great lengths and dedicate tremendous resources to rehabilitating boxers and preparing them for healthy and happy lives in loving forever homes. Sometimes, however, we are confronted with a situation in which for medical or behavioral reasons, we feel that the best option is to humanely euthanize a dog in our care.

The decision to euthanize a dog for medical reasons is never easy, but is made with respect to each dog's quality of life and prognosis. When a dog's quality of life has deteriorated to an unacceptable degree and our vets do not believe there is hope of recovery, we believe that euthanasia is in the dog's best interest. This decision to euthanize is made by our Medical Coordinator and Executive Director in consultation with a veterinarian.

Many of the dogs who enter our care require behavioral intervention, which we provide through placement in skilled foster homes and through extended boarding sessions with qualified trainers. Rarely, however, we encounter a dog whose intractably or unpredictably aggressive behavior presents a significant danger to people. In cases such as these, our Executive Director, in consultation with a trainer, may deem a dog to be a liability for our organization and a threat to public safety. Although it is truly heartbreaking for us to euthanize an apparently healthy dog, in these rare cases not doing so would jeopardize public safety and would threaten our ability to continue to carry out our mission of saving lives.