



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DESK-BASED RESEARCH CALL

Delayed Euthanasia in Dogs and Cats

Background

It is commonly asserted that the treatment provided to some companion animals, particularly dogs and cats, has become more intensive over the years whilst the quality of life of the animals being treated is not necessarily enhanced by treatment intended to prolong life.

The Delphi study funded by AWF raised the issue of a delay in euthanasia as a potential factor adversely affecting the welfare of the animals. The group of experts who participated in the modified Delphi investigation considered the delay to affect most species although there was no attempt to understand why there might be a delay or to quantify the potential welfare harm.

The Project

AWF wishes to better quantify the extent to which there may be delays in euthanasia in companion animal veterinary practices and the underlying reasons for the delay. This would be a pilot study using data which may be available from a range of clinical sources and should be focussed on the time before the coronavirus pandemic. We would expect the project to examine the interval between first presentation for a condition to euthanasia where that concludes treatment and what treatment was provided in the interim.