

EUTHANASIA POLICY

1. CASUALTIES FOR EUTHANASIA (in every case)
 - a) Loss of wing or leg/foot
 - b) Suffering from terminal illness
 - c) Totally blind
 - d) Injured so severely it would be cruel to:
 - i) attempt treatment initially or
 - ii) sustain life in the light of subsequently identified injuries
 - e) Total permanent loss of flight (e.g. due to ankylosed joint)
2. REHABILITATORS MAY RETAIN BIRDS unable to be re-released (other than those in the above categories) for rearing orphaned young birds or any similar purpose, such as avoiding imprinting.
3. NO BIRD WHICH IS RETAINED should adversely affect a rehabilitator's resources, which would otherwise be available for the treatment of birds viable for re-release. Any retained birds NOT USED for purposes as in point 2 above, should be found a suitable home other than with the rehabilitator. A full history and all necessary documentation should accompany any bird passed on. It will be the rehabilitator's responsibility to ensure any foster home is suitable for the relevant bird.
4. IMPRINTED SOCIALLY DISORDERED OR CROSS-FOSTERED BIRDS should never be released. It is for the individual to decide on retention or otherwise, but the recommendations in section 3 should also be applicable to imprints.
5. ANY BREEDING from retained permanently disabled wild birds for release purposes is not to be associated with Raptor Rescue other than with the prior written consent of the Committee. Raptor Rescue does not sanction the sale of progeny from permanently disabled wild birds and individuals must not associate the Charity with any such transaction. Raptor Rescue will not knowingly accept any financial benefit arising from the sale of such birds.
6. EUTHANASIA should always be carried out by a veterinary surgeon, unless unnecessary suffering would be caused by any delay in receiving veterinary assistance. Rehabilitators should familiarize themselves with the most suitable methods of euthanasia available in such circumstances.

History

1998 – Initial issue

2001 – General revision