







EHumane recognizes that declawing operations for non-medical purposes are performed solely for the convenience of the pet guardian. EHumane urges guardians to exhaust all humane, non-surgical alternatives prior to subjecting a cat to declawing. Elective declawing has been made illegal in nearby jurisdictions and other areas. If all other options have been exhausted, EHumane recommends laser surgical methods and proper pain management. All declawed cats should be kept as indoor-only pets as their primary method of defense has been eliminated.

### *Devocalization of Animals*

EHumane believes that a responsible pet guardian chooses a pet carefully, taking into consideration that the natural behaviors of some pets can be disruptive. Guardians should be prepared to make personal adjustments if necessary in order to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with the animals. The responsible guardian is willing to socialize and train a pet that is vocalizing excessively, making every effort to determine and address the cause of the behavior.

EHumane recognizes that devocalization of an animal is done for non-medical reasons and is opposed to veterinary procedures that do not benefit the animal.

EHumane opposes the use of the term 'kill' to describe other agencies and their process of thoughtful euthanasia and uses the term 'anti-euthanasia' instead of the divisive and misleading term, 'no-kill'. EHumane takes the responsibility for making euthanasia decisions seriously and with every consideration for alternative outcomes that are in the best interest of the animal and the safety of the community.

### *Food & Fiber Animals*

EHumane believes that farm animals are creatures of intrinsic value, intelligence, complexity, and dignity. EHumane further believes that the billions of animals raised each year in the United States for food, clothing, and other products are entitled to live their lives free of unnecessary pain, suffering, and stress, as well as to a humane death. Therefore EHumane is opposed to the exploitation of food and fiber animals and supports the enforcement and strengthening of current laws and the implementation of humane standards for animals in every phase of animal-based food or fiber production.

### *Furs*

EHumane deplores the killing of animals, whether wild-caught or captive-bred, solely for the purpose of producing fur garments and decorations.

### *Guard Dogs*

EHumane recognizes the need for certain commercial businesses to implement sufficient security to protect and defend property and life. It is preferable that electronic and police surveillance methods be used as a first means of defense. When other methods have failed, there are occasions it is acceptable for a dog to be used for guarding purposes. Guard dogs should receive nutritious food, clean water, clean, dry shelter, and



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veterinary care, should wear a current dog license and identification, receive sufficient socialization with people on a regular and frequent basis, and be cared for as a beloved family member.

### *Hunting and Trapping*

NOCO Humane opposes the hunting or trapping of any living creature for the sole purpose of entertainment, trophy, or sport because it subjects animals to stress, suffering, injury and/or death solely for the entertainment of people.

### *Native and Exotic Wildlife as Pets*

NOCO Humane is opposed to the illegal practice of catching and or keeping wild animals as pets. Whether captive-born or wild-caught, wild animals make unsuitable pets. An animal is defined as 'wild' if its species has not been domesticated.

### *Outdoor Cats*

NOCO Humane believes that responsible cat owners protect their cats, other animals, the public, and the environment by keeping their cats indoors or supervised in an enclosed outdoor area.

### *Proper Outdoor Shelter for Dogs*

NOCO Humane believes that dogs should be cared for as beloved family members. However, it is recognized that some dogs primarily live outdoors. In these cases, outdoor dogs should receive nutritious food, clean water, clean and dry shelter, and veterinary care. A dog living outdoors should wear a current dog license and identification and receive sufficient socialization with people on a regular and frequent basis.

### *Retail Sale of Pets*

NOCO Humane opposes commercial breeders who house their animals in inhumane conditions without regard to their physical or social needs and the pet shops that support this industry by selling their animals.

NOCO Humane supports legislation that restricts or bans such commercial breeders and requires inspection and licensure for all breeding operations.

### *Rodeos*

NOCO Humane opposes all rodeo events that involve cruel, painful, stressful, or potentially harmful treatment of animals—not only in performance at the events but also in handling, transport and practice for such events. Further, NOCO Humane is opposed to children's rodeo events that do not promote humane care and respect for animals.

### *Service and Emotional Support Animals*

NOCO Humane recognizes the value and importance of highly trained service animals to individuals with disabilities in our community. These animals should be trained using humane methods to provide the desired assisting functions to disabled individuals. We advocate for the responsible and humane care of service animals by their trainers and handlers through their lives.



NOCO Humane also acknowledges the growing use of emotional support animals in our community. We support the use of these animals assuming that they are well behaved, highly trained, and cared for as beloved family members.

NOCO Humane opposes the fraudulent use of service animals and emotional support animals as selfish and exploitative acts that harm the reputation of all service animals and the individuals they help.

#### *Sterilization of Companion Animals*

NOCO Humane supports the sterilization of companion animals as it not only reduces pet-overpopulation but may increase an animal's chance of living a longer life. NOCO Humane recognizes that sterilization may not be recommended or necessary under certain, specific circumstances. When sterilization options are not pursued, NOCO Humane believes that responsible parties will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that unsterilized animals do not contribute to the unwanted pet surplus. NOCO Humane also supports the existence of spay and neuter clinics and programs which allow guardians to access affordable pet sterilization.

#### *Training Methods for Animals*

NOCO Humane believes that animals learn best through positive reinforcement and opposes the routine use of inhumane punishment-based training, corrective devices, or methods that cause an animal to obey out of pain, fear or intimidation. We believe that trainers should always use the least intrusive, minimally aversive techniques possible.

#### *Wildlife-Human Conflicts*

NOCO Humane believes that before any measures are taken to control, translocate, or destroy wild animals, a careful analysis of the animals' behavior, environment, and the specific problem or threat posed should be conducted and all humane alternatives exhausted.

#### *Zoological Parks and Aquaria*

NOCO Humane believes that wild animals should be permitted to exist undisturbed in their natural environments. However, it is recognized that the widespread existence of zoos and aquaria serves a demonstrable purpose in the long-term benefit of animals, such as the preservation and restoration of endangered species and the education of people about the needs of wild animals and their roles in ecosystems.