ASSOCIATION OF SHELTER VETERINARIANS

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Use of Animal Cadavers for Educational Purposes

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The Association of Shelter Veterinarians believes it is unacceptable for a shelter animal to be euthanized solely for educational purposes. However, it is acceptable for shelters to make the cadavers of deceased shelter animals available for educational purposes, provided their use confers a clear benefit to other animals and/or society. Shelters should have a written policy for such use.

Animal cadavers serve a valuable role in training veterinarians, physicians, and other professionals. Consideration must be given to replacement, reduction and refinement of animal use in training as in research, which may include the use of models, computer simulation, and other virtual training methods.[1]

Animal cadavers must be treated with respect.

References:

1. National Research Council. (2011) Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. 8th Ed. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.

The mission of the ASV is to advance and support the practice of shelter medicine in order to improve community animal health and well-being.