

## **Position Statement: Use of Shelter Animal Cadavers for Educational Purposes**

*(Updated November 2020)*

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians believes that no shelter animal should be euthanized for an educational purpose. However, cadavers of shelter animals euthanized for other reasons may be made available for educational purposes, provided their use confers a clear benefit to other animals and/or society. Animal cadavers serve a valuable role in training veterinarians, physicians, and other professionals. The need for animal cadavers can be partially met through body donation programs, but these sources are often insufficient. Consideration must be given to replacement, reduction and refinement of animal use, which may include the use of models, computer simulation, and other virtual training methods.<sup>1</sup> Animal cadavers must be treated with respect.

### **References**

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