

# Euthanasia Rate in Elderly Dogs in a Dog and Cat Clinic in the City of Ribeirão Pires, São Paulo - Brazil and the Influence Of Digital Resources for Data Survey

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## Abstract

Domestic animals are assuming an important role in society, becoming members of families and, consequently, care for the well-being of these animals is increasing. Knowing the importance of these beings and their sentience, the concern with the end of life and the existing practices to alleviate suffering, if it exists, are constant. In the twelve-month period, about 1350 animals (dogs and cats) of all ages received clinical care and of these 12% of the animals over seven years of age died, 28% of the number of deaths were euthanized. The main cause of death was neoplasia.

**Keywords:** Chromotherapy, Death, Geriatrics, Music Therapy, Veterinary Medicine, Small Animals, Technologies

## Introduction

Living beings are composed of numerous cells, they have well-defined and indispensable roles for their survival. These cells, in turn, are not only affected by external pathogens, but can also be harmed by their malfunction, resulting from aging [1]. Aging is inherent to any living being, and they are doomed to a cycle that culminates in the collapse of the organism, leading to death. During this period, aging provides numerous phases with varying degrees of complications, which have a lot to do with the type of life this animal had when young (food, behavior, activity, diseases, etc.) [2].

Studies on causes of death in small animals are still scarce in Brazil [3]. Euthanasia is the humane killing of an animal, performed by a method that produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain and/or agony, or a method that uses anesthetic drugs in doses sufficient to produce painless loss of consciousness followed by cardiorespiratory arrest [2].

In Brazil, there are practically no records of research that have as their main objective to analyze quantitatively and qualitatively the social and emotional effects caused in people who needed to euthanize their pets [4]. The available information is of a general, empirical nature and only mentions the difficulty of human beings in passively accepting this process. In this sense,

this research aims to verify the perception of euthanasia in pet dogs with severe pathology, focusing on the emotional impacts and knowledge related to this practice, discussing the interfaces between human and animal welfare[5].

Thus, the issues that we will deal with in the present work are organized in such a way that there is an understanding of the evolution of knowledge about these agents/physiology [6]. Clinical aspects, diagnosis and treatment of the main diseases in the clinical routine of senile animals and a brief call for other neglected diseases in the clinical routine will also be addressed. Therefore, a review of the main causes of death and reasons for euthanasia is necessary, both from the point of view of the pathologist and the small animal clinician. Because the information provided by this study model is of great importance for monitoring, planning and actions that help the treatment and prevention of diseases that most frequently cause the death of a given animal species [7, 8].

## The Main Objective of the Study Was

To report the rate of euthanasia in dogs over seven years of age at the small animal clinic in Ribeirão Pires-SP and to verify the influence of the digital resource chromotherapy and music therapy on the owners of the animals, veterinarians and assistants involved, as well as the differential in social relationships.

## Materials and Methods

### Study Area

In a small animal clinic in the city of Ribeirão Pires, São Paulo – Brazil, quantitative data collection was carried out. The enterprise has a veterinarian with a postgraduate degree in the area of geriatrics, and 80% of the animals served are senile.

### Survey Data

This analytical study used quantitative data collection through the clinical history filter with the keywords "euthanasia and death" for dogs and cats over seven years of age, a tool available as a resource of the simplesvet platform. These were analysed over the twelve-month period (from 12 October 2022 to 12 October 2023).

To define the main causes of euthanasia, records of 20 animals of the 166 animals that died, selected by the lottery method, were analyzed, 19 canine and 1 feline had their records analyzed.

In a period of six months (from May to October), the digital resource chromotherapy and music therapy was used during the death notification and euthanasia procedure and empirically evaluated whether the owners of the animals, veterinarians and trainees involved, were calmer during and after the notification of death.

### Results and Discussion

In the period of one year (from October 12, 2022 to October 12, 2023), about 1350 animals (dogs and cats) received clinical care of all ages and of these, 166 (12%) of the animals over 7 years of age died. The main causes of death were chronic kidney disease, where 48 animals were euthanized (28% of the number of deaths and 3.5% of the total number of cases).

Of the 166 animals that died, 20 of them were selected by the lottery method and had their records analyzed.

**Table 1: Causes of Euthanasia in Dogs and Cats Seniors**

Pathology	Number of cases
Metastasis	9
Senile cognitive syndrome	7
Paralysis (maltreatment)	4

When we talk about euthanasia, most veterinarians have compassion syndrome, because many times those responsible for the animals unload all the family and financial problems involved with the animal that is being cared for.

Music therapy is the use of music to facilitate communication, an example is classical music, which can be used with dogs and cats to promote well-being, to calm the animal and provide a better moment, together chromotherapy benefits the procedure by relating colors and emotions have been explored throughout human history. Those involved in the euthanasia procedure reported feeling more comfortable and more supportive when benefiting from these resources. The reality was easier to accept and the conversation about it took place in a smooth way where all the pillars evaluated justified the harm and benefit of death by the aspect of animal ethics fundamentals.

### Conclusion and Perspectives

According to this data collection, a little more than a quarter of the animals that died in the twelve-month period were euthanized, mainly in dogs seniors, and neoplasia was the main cause of seeking this procedure. Chromotherapy and music therapy enrich the environment and social relationships in the dog and cat clinic.

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