

Flow diagram for when a decision on euthanasia is currently unachievable and an animal's welfare is believed to be compromised.

For context, this scenario assumes the following;

- The legitimate owner has been established and is present (i.e this is not a stray).
- The animal's condition is not yet at the threshold that in the animal's own interests, it should be destroyed without delay, therefore paragraphs 8.12 and 8.13 of the RCVS CoPC do not apply as the threshold has not yet been reached.



Consult Code of Professional Conduct: Section 8.10 & 8.11
"Owner's refusal"

- Section 8.10 states
"...The veterinary surgeon and the client should work together to determine the most humane outcome."

- Section 8.11 states
"Where a veterinary surgeon is concerned that an animal's welfare is compromised because of an owner's refusal to consent to euthanasia, a veterinary surgeon may take steps to resolve the situation..."

Contact your professional indemnifier at earliest opportunity

Offer a second opinion to be done "within a reasonable timeframe"
(so as not to prolong compromised welfare)

Document all discussions and decisions clearly!



Inform Pet carer of a possible breach of the Animal Welfare Act



Section 9 Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare

- A person commits an offence if he does not take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.
- For the purposes of this Act, an animal's needs shall be taken to include— a, b, c, d and...(e) its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

If a decision on euthanasia still cannot be reached despite the above, then consider the following options:

Discharging against vet advice or **Reporting** an owner for animal welfare concerns