



# Internal Notification Process for Behavioral Euthanasia

*at Austin Pets Alive!*

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# Why is a protocol needed?

- Many staff and volunteers are invested in our dogs and their outcomes
- APA! strives to be transparent with internal stakeholders about the animals they are working with every day
- We want to communicate directly so that people aren't hearing "through the grapevine"
- We want the communication process to be consistent and timely



# When do we use this protocol?

- When we have decided to euthanize a dog for behavior concerns
- When we have decided to euthanize a dog for medical or quality-of-life concerns
- When a dog dies unexpectedly in our care
- When a dog is diagnosed with a terminal illness and/or becomes a hospice case, and euthanasia is expected/imminent

*In most cases, this applies to dogs who have been onsite at our shelter for 30+ days, or is considered a long-stay dog in our care overall (including time in foster).*

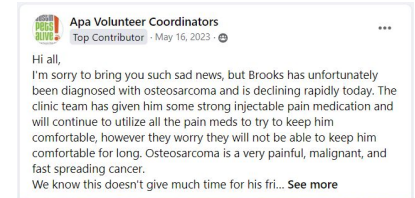


# What we include in communications

- A good picture of the dog
- The specific incident that triggered a conversation and decision, if applicable
- A summary of the dog's history and timeline with APA!, including overall behavior concerns
- Positive details about the dog's personality and time at APA!, including notes from close friends if available
- Timeline for euthanasia and offer of keepsake (paw prints)

# Where we share notifications

- An opt-in, staff-only Gmail group
- An opt-in volunteer email group through our volunteer management system
- A staff and volunteer opt-in Facebook group





## Other considerations and tips

- If someone is aware of a prior foster or adopter that may want to be notified of a euthanasia, a manager or friend may reach out
- If there was anything especially upsetting or gruesome about a case, those details will be left out of larger group messaging
- Notifications do not include any assumptions or personal speculation about a case or a cause of death
- Remember that anything you send out has the potential to be shared and seen by the general public



Feel free to contact me!

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