GENERAL COMMENT ON EUTHANASIA

In dealing with euthanasia and the millions of surplus cats and dogs that constitute one of our major problems, it is good to bear in mind that the problem has literally forced the humane movement to abandon the welfare of each individual animal and to adopt as its principle "the elimination of suffering is more important than the preservation of life". We don't especially like being put in this position. It is an unsatisfactory and unhappy application of the highest principles of animal welfare, but yet the only manageable one for such a difficult problem. And we must remember that it is only defensible if, concurrently, we are doing all we can to persuade the public not to let pets breed. Under no other circumstances can the harsh necessity of putting millions of animals to death every year be justified. From our standpoint, this is the important message we should try to get across to all who come to us for advice and information on animal euthanasia.