LOST MEADOWS MULE REFUGE EUTHANASIA POLICY

Lost Meadows Mule Rescue provides the utmost care to the mules within our system. We have made a commitment to long term care to every mule that we rescue. A reality of this commitment is that some mules are suffering and there is no more that can be done for them.

Equine quality of life is defined as:

1. Ability to interact with the herd in a normal manner without fear or pain
2. Ability to eat and drink without fear or pain
3. Ability to move in a normal manner without fear or pain
4. Ability to urinate/defecate in a normal manner without pain
5. Ability to thrive, not just survive

Lost Meadows Mule Refuge uses this personally-designed QOL assessment sheet to provide a guide for the euthanasia decision-making process.

Two senior staff members or one staff member and a veterinarian must agree that the mule needs to be euthanized. A Morte form must be completed before disposal of the body and the date of death must be recorded in Lightspoke.

Where it is possible to bury the mule a minimum of six feet, the preferred method of euthanasia is an inter-venous drug administered by a veterinarian. The mule's remains must be disposed of immediately as any carrion eater can die from eating the carcass.

In emergency situations, a qualified shooter may use a large caliber handgun to euthanize the mule.

AAEP Equine Euthanasia Guidelines

1. An Equine should not have to endure continuous or unmanageable pain from a condition that is chronic and incurable.
2. An Equine should not have to endure a medical or surgical condition that has a hopeless chance of survival.
3. An Equine should not have to remain alive if it has an unmanageable medical condition that renders it a hazard to itself or its handlers.
4. An Equine should not have to receive continuous analgesic medication for the relief of pain for the rest of its life.
5. An Equine should not have to endure a lifetime of continuous individual box stall confinement for prevention or relief of unmanageable pain or suffering.