

**RESOLUTION #9—2017
Regular Annual Session**

PENDING WAIVER OF PRIOR NOTICE

Submitted by—
Board of Directors

REVISED POLICY ON VETERINARY HOSPICE CARE

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) adopt the revised policy on Veterinary Hospice Care as noted in the [attachment](#).

Statement about the Resolution

The [International Association for Animal Hospice and Palliative Care](#) (IAAHPC) has become a robust professional organization providing meaningful certification. The guidance provided by the AHAA jointly with IAAHPC in the [2016 AAHA/IAAHPC End-of-Life Care Guidelines](#) is consistent with AVMA policies, and constitutes the best source of information for veterinarians regarding veterinary hospice standards. Therefore the proposed revised policy emphasizes critical issues in veterinary hospice care while deferring details to the AAHA/IAAHPC End-of-Life Care Guidelines. The proposed revised policy outlines the concept of veterinary hospice as “the provision of palliative care (including medications) for the remainder of a pet’s life followed by humane euthanasia if an acceptable quality of life can no longer be maintained.” It is further specified that 1) in veterinary hospice, veterinary care advice should only be provided by veterinary professionals, and 2) veterinarians should be empowered as animal advocates in hospice facilities for animals not in private ownership.

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #2	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X			
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				
(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)				