

SUBMISSION IN FAVOR OF VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA

It is inhumane to deny people the choice of a pain-free and dignified death with their loved ones around. We do better for our animals.

Last week, I had to have my beloved dog put down. We bought an extra 6 months after her diagnosis of cancer and diabetes. With non-intrusive treatment (insulin only), she was pain-free and happy and frisky. When her time came, it was very sudden. The vet was able to terminate her few hours of suffering with dignity and with minimal pain. I asked the vet "Why can't we do this with people?" No answer.

My mother was also diagnosed with cancer. She also existed for 6 more months, but it was interminable operations, chemo, radiation, in and out of rehab... She was finally sent home for 'palliative care' when no more could be done. My dad took care of her, and she pleaded that he give her a 'mickey'. As an MD, he would have been capable of that, but it isn't legal. When she went into her final convulsions even he couldn't handle it. She was sent back to hospital with her DNR and died there. Alone.

Three years later my dad too was diagnosed. Cancer. He lasted a miserable 12 months through multiple surgeries, chemo, radiation, etc etc.... He came home to die in (again) 'palliative care' and I went to the US from Australia to be his carer. It took two weeks for him to die, and the end was horrible. I will never forget it and I never want to put my children through it.

I would prefer to die as my dog did.

We are not allowed that dignity or choice here. If we try a DIY suicide we could stuff it up and be even more of a burden to our loved ones, or traumatize them. Even worse, if they are considered to be 'assisting' they can be prosecuted as criminals. What idiocy is that!

DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) does not work unless you are on life support. Palliative care does not always suffice. See above. I perform (music) regularly in nursing homes, and while some people there are doing well, there are a lot who are in a condition I never want to be in.

I am ageing, partially disabled, living on my own, and the pain increases, but I am still useful. I am not ready to go yet, but I think it should be my choice and with my family. At this point, I would not even be physically capable of getting to Dignitas (Switzerland) on my own. And if I took my family to help, would they be prosecuted as criminals?

We need some intelligent legislation here. It is not as though we are imposing euthanasia as per 'Brave New World'! The operative term is 'Voluntary'. It should be a matter of choice, and chosen while we have the mental capability to do so, and allowing the family to assist in the dignified death of a loved one.

The cost effectiveness is so blatantly obvious as opposed to interminable care and our ageing population that I believe I would insult your intelligence bringing it up.

And may I pass as my dog did!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Coyne