

Philadelphia Pet Evaluation Matrix

Version 2, Adopted 8/19/21

The participating major animal control, rescue, and adoption agencies agree to use these categories for the purpose of uniformity in reporting on the condition of animals at the time that they arrive at the shelter and at the time of their disposition. However, each agency may have other, more stringent, criteria which they apply to making euthanasia decisions for animals under their care. The agencies also agree to meet at least annually to review the Matrix. *PLEASE SEE KEY, next page.*

Healthy	Treatable / Rehabilitatable	Treatable / Manageable	Unhealthy / Untreatable
MEDICAL			
Congenital/Resolved Injury; Does Not Impede QOL	Mild URI (Feline Viral Upper Respiratory Complex)	Tumor - Non-surgical/Does Not Impact Mobility/QOL	Parvo/Panleuk Positive - Severe
Senior - No Clinical Abnormalities	Parvo/Panleuk Exposed - Healthy	Renal Failure - Preclinical/Mild	End-Stage Renal Failure - Severe
Apparently Healthy	Parvo/Panleuk Positive - Mild/Moderate	FAD/Allergies - Moderate/Chronic	Skin Allergies - Painful, Non-Responsive to Treatment
Blind	Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (CIRD) - Mild/Moderate, 0-2 Antibiotics Tried	Senior Related Conditions - Does Not Impact QOL/Responsive to Treatment	Senior Related Conditions - Severe/Poor QOL
Deaf	Tumor - Small, Easy to Remove	Mild Rhinitis/Asthma	Tumor - Large/Ulcerated/Poor QOL
	Fungal/Bacterial Infection - Mild/Moderate	Severe URI - No Other Medical Issues	Pneumonia/Severe URI/CIRDC - Non-Responsive to Treatment
	Mild Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD)	Non-ambulatory Small Dog or Social Cat	Generalized Fungal/Bacterial Infection - Severe
	Puppies and Kittens Under 8 Weeks - Healthy/Mild/Moderately Ill	Chronic Illness - Does Not Impact QOL (incl. diabetes, hyper/hypothyroid)	Chronic Disease - Animal Debilitated/Non-Responsive/Poor QOL
	Neonates - Healthy/Mildly Ill		Acute Trauma - Animal Unresponsive
	Neonates - Moderately Ill and Weaned		Non-Responsive Asthma - Severe
BEHAVIORAL			
			Injured/Injured a Person - May include Multiple, Sustained Bites/Attack; Bite and Hold/Shake; Bites Requiring Professional Medical Attention; Offensive Bites With an Intent to Harm
Jumpy/Nervous But Social	Aggressive Behaviors - Mild/Situational	Moderate Animal Aggression - Usually Interruptable/Usually Does Not Redirect	Killed Another Animal - Multiple Instances/Outside the Norms of Canine Behaviors
People and Animal Social	Fearful Behaviors - Mild/Situational	Injured/Killed Another Animal Within the Norms of Canine Behaviors	Animal/Human Directed Aggressive Behaviors - Severe/Generalized
Housetrained/Litterbox Trained	Destructiveness - Mild/Situational	Incidentally Injured a Human (ex. Resource Guarding)	Severe/Persistent Anxiety - Negatively Impacts QOL, Self-Harming
Stray Feline - Cat/Asocial Behavior	Mild Anxiety - Mild/Situational	Bite(s) to Human With Clear/Reasonably Manageable Trigger	
		Owned/Surrendered Cat- Feral/Asocial Behavior	Feral/Unsocialized Adult Dog
		Generalized Anxiety/Fearful Behaviors - Moderate	Legally Declared Dangerous Dog
		Kennel Induced Behavioral Deterioration	Multiple Bite History with No Clear Trigger/Pattern
		Kennel/Barrier Reactivity	Killed a Person
		Separation Anxiety - Moderate/Severe	

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KEY:

Healthy: Pet is over 8 weeks of age, behaviorally sound, and physically healthy. Needs only basic husbandry and preventive care (vaccines, etc.).

Treatable/Rehabilitatable: Pet has a medical or behavioral condition or concern that has a good prognosis for being completely resolved through treatment, which most reasonable and caring pet owners would provide in the community, and the pet would then be considered healthy.

Treatable/Manageable: Pet has a medical or behavioral condition or concern that has a good prognosis for being addressed to a point where the pet is able to be successfully managed in a home, though may need ongoing medication or training, which most reasonable and caring pet owners would provide in the community.

Unhealthy/Untreatable: Pet is presenting with a medical or behavioral condition or concern that has guarded/poor prognosis for becoming stable or safe to be managed in a home, and which most reasonable and caring pet owners would not continue to try to treat or manage in their care.

Modifiers:

Mild: of a degree that is not causing suffering, or, of a duration where treatment has not failed/simply not worked yet.

Moderate: of a degree that is causing occasional suffering or duration where additional treatments are indicated as a first round of treatment has failed.

Severe: of a degree that suffering is occurring at most or all times, and multiple treatments have been documented as failing, or, of a degree where no treatment exists that is likely to effectively mitigate suffering that is occurring.

Definitions:

Suffering: a quality of life for a pet where most people with basic understanding of animal care would agree they have “more bad days than good,” are experiencing un-relievable pain, fear, nausea, etc., and/or where the legal definitions of cruelty/neglect would indicate that not providing treatments, up to and including euthanasia, would be inhumane.

QOL: acronym for “Quality of Life,” a subjective assessment term used to encompass the overall wellbeing of an animal. Some objective scoring systems exist, but assessment is most commonly derived from an owner or caregiver’s subjective impressions of how the pet is doing in the home or shelter.

Clinical: has a disease or injury which is causing symptoms (example: clinical kidney failure – the pet is vomiting, losing weight, “sick” from kidney failure)

Pre-Clinical: has a disease or injury which is not causing signs or symptoms, though may progress over time (example, arthritis or kidney failure)

Relevant Terms Not Used Here:

Savable: an animal that a rescue or shelter is typically able to provide a live outcome for with the resources available in that agency.

Non-Savable: an animal that a rescue or shelter is typically unable to provide a live outcome for with the resources available in that agency.