

Maddie's Pet Rescue Project in Erie County Pet Evaluation Matrix

This Pet Evaluation Matrix has been developed with the input of the project partners, local veterinarians and the community. Each condition has been categorized with the provision that the age, size and prior medical history of the animal will be taken into account. In addition, the severity of the condition will be a factor in determining the health category. It should also be noted that the category assigned does not dictate the outcome for the animal.

Medical Conditions	
Condition	Category
Abscess	R
Addison's Disease	M
Allergies	M
Amputee , 1 Limb	H/M
Amputee, 2 or More Limbs	U
Arthritis	M
Asthma	M
Autoimmune Disease	M
Bite Wounds	R
Bladder Stones	R
Blind	M
Bloat	U
Broken Jaw	R
Broken Limb/Pelvis	R/M
Burns, 1st Degree	R
Burns, 2nd Degree	M
Burns, 3rd Degree	U
Cancer	R/M/U
Cardiomyopathy	U
Cataracts	M
Cerebellar Hyperplasia	M
Cherry Eye	R
Collapsed Lung	U
Conjunctivitis	R
Cosmetic Deformity	H
Cushing's Disease	M
Deaf	H/M
Degloving	R/M
Dehydrated, No Organ Failure	R
Dehydrated, With Organ Failure	U
Dental Disease/Dental Issues	R/M
Diabetes (insulin dependent)	M
Distemper/Panleukopenia	U
Dysplasia	M/U
Ear Mites	R
Emaciated	R
Eye Infections/Eye Issues	R/M
FeLV	U
FIP	U

FIV	M
Flea/Tick/Lice Infestations	R
Foreign Body in GI Tract	R/M
Frostbite	R
Head Trauma	M/U
Heart Murmur	M/U
Heartworm	R/U
Hernia	R
Incontinence	M
Internal Bleeding	R/U
Intestinal Parasites	R
Kennel Cough	R
Kidney Failure	U
Labor Complications	R
Lameness	R/M
Lick Granulomas	R
Lipomas	H/M
Lungworm	R/U
Luxating Patella	R/M
Malnourished	R
Mange	R
Murmur	M
Obesity	R
Organ Failure	U
Pancreatitis	R/M
Paralysis	M/U
Parvo	R
Pneumonia	R
Poisoning	R/U
Pregnant	H/R
Prolapsed Rectum	R
Proptosed Eye	M
Puncture Wounds	R
Pyometra	R
Rabies (suspected)	U
Ringworm	R
Seizures	M/U
Smoke Inhalation	R/U
Thyroid	M
Tick Born Diseases	M
Toxioplasmosis	R
Ulcers	R
Unweaned, Not Orphaned Kittens/Puppies	R
Unweaned, Orphaned Kittens/Puppies	R
URI	R
Urinary Issues/UTI	R/M
Vomiting/Diarrhea	R
Weaned, Underage	R

Behavioral Conditions

The behavioral conditions have been classified with the stipulation that behaviors must be observed or documented.

Condition	Supporting Details	H	R/M	U
Aggression, Dominance	Abnormal, out-of-context aggression exhibited by dogs toward people under any circumstance involving passive or active control of the dog's behavior.	Accepts guidance or directives from humans.	Under 2 years old. May verbally protest when corrected.	Over 2 years old. Bite history. Engages in predatory stalking. Aggressively pins people/blocks paths.
Aggression, Fear-based	Aggression that occurs with behavioral and physiological signs of fear as identified by withdrawal, passive, and avoidance behaviors associated with the sympathetic branch of the autonomic nervous system.	Caution while approaching new things/people; quick recovery (less than 10 seconds).	Flattened ears, dilated pupils; attempts to avoid stimulus that causes fear; growling, snarling, barking.	Bite history. Lunging with intent to make physical contact when NOT approached.
Aggression, Food-related	Consistent aggression exhibited only in the presence of pet/human food, bones, biscuits (and in the absence of starvation).	May tense up when approached.	Eating speed increases when approached; snarling, growling.	Leaves food bowl to bite with intent to break skin.
Aggression, Inter-animal	Consistent, volitional aggression that is not contextual given the social signals, threat circumstances, or response from the animal that is attacked.	Attempts to avoid interactions.	Growling, snarling, lunging on leash, stiff body posture, low tail carriage.	Lunging with intent to make physical contact; predatory stalking; kill bite/shake.
Aggression, Resource Guarding	Aggression that is consistently directed toward another individual who approaches or attempts to obtain a nonfood object or space that the aggressor possesses or controls access to.	Will allow people and animals to approach when possessing a toy. Recovers quickly when trading item. May stiffen.	Uses body to cover resource, growls, may air snap or show teeth. May trade for another object. *Larger breeds may not be considered for placement at SPCA.	Snaps with intent to bite; leaves resource to aggress toward person or other animal.
Aggression, Territorial	Aggression consistently demonstrated in a defined area when approached by a person with no real threat. Intensifies with decreasing distance, despite intervention.	Barking, patrolling area perimeters, high tail carriage, forward but relaxed body posture.	Growling, snarling, stiff body posture, piloerection. No bite history.	Bite history. Offensively pursues approaching person or animal.
Bite History		Pain-induced bite.	Air snapping. Has scratched skin or made one or two shallow bites. *Larger breeds may not be considered for placement at SPCA.	Deep punctures; multiple bites; ripping/tearing of skin when shaking bite victim.

Condition	Supporting Details	H	R/M	U
Compulsive Behaviors	Examples include: licking, spinning, pacing, barking, digging.		Behavior causes mild injury to self. May result from confinement, lack of exercise etc.	Behavior causes excessive injury to animal. Cannot be interrupted or redirected.
Depression	Animal chooses not to engage in required behaviors such as eating, drinking, grooming, and may choose to avoid social interaction.		Lack of interest in required behaviors or social interaction. May be alleviated with change in environment or enrichment.	Not eating, drinking, or grooming for extended period of time.
Dog Fighting			Fearful of other animals and/or people. Used as a "bait" dog.	Was an active participant in dog fighting.
Excessive Vocalization	Repeated, excessively loud and/or high-pitched vocalizations.	Animal seeks attention, is bored or in need of social interaction.	Trigger can be identified/controlled.	
Fearful	Regularly flattens ears, tucks tail between legs and displays other fearful behaviors.	Brief avoidance, tail tucking, "smiling", then warms up.	Under 2 years; avoidance behavior; a specific stimuli triggers the fear.	Offensively attempting to bite; fear is so severe the animal cannot perform normal daily functions.
Feral Cat			In a colony	In a shelter setting.
Hard to Confine	Animal frequently attempts to jump, dig or chew out of the yard or home.		Active animal with little exercise or enrichment. Escape associated with a specific trigger (i.e. thunderstorms).	Escaping is compulsive. Dog injures itself or causes significant damage to home or yard.
High Prey Drive	Engages in behavior such as chasing, stalking, tracking or pouncing on animals or humans.		Has not injured another animal or person. Predatory behaviors directed toward specific species (i.e. cats, birds). Very focused on handler.	Bite history including punctures. Predatory behaviors directed toward humans (especially if toward children), or toward multiple species.

Condition	Supporting Details	H	R/M	U
Housetraining/ Housesoiling Issues (non-medical)	Elimination in inappropriate locations.	Animal under 1 year old. In a new environment for less than 3 months.	Under 2 years old. Trigger can be identified (submissive, separation anxiety, excitement etc.)	Over two. Behavior modification efforts have failed. Cat is observed regularly not using litter box.
Lack of Manners	Jumps up for greetings, pulls on leash, does not respond to common training cues.	Puppy or adolescent dog displaying non-aggression based behavior problems.	Jumping; tugging on leash during walks; nipping people or other animals.	
Scratch History		Pain-induced scratch.	Scratches with little to no bleeding.	Deep scratch with prominent bleeding.
Separation Anxiety	Displays signs of distress when left alone, may engage in destructive behavior or excessive vocalization.		May soil house in absence of attachment figure; does not injure self; does not exhibit signs when unconfined, may lack enrichment.	Does significant injury to self or to confinement area. Behavior modification or medication therapy had little/no success.
Socialization Deficits to Humans	Avoids human contact; cannot adapt to new situations.		Under 5 months old; does not display aggressive behaviors toward people.	Over 5 months old with little social contact; displays aggressive behaviors toward people.