

**Plan of action for situations when a healthy animal is at risk for immediate euthanasia:**

Healthy animals will be held as long as necessary at MCAC&C to avoid euthanizing a healthy animal for lack of space, regardless of how long the animal has been in the MCAC&C shelter.

If the shelter is at capacity and staff determines that euthanasia of animals currently in the shelter is necessary to make space for incoming animals, unhealthy/untreatable and treatable animals will be euthanized to make space before any healthy animals are euthanized.

Prior to initiating the phone tree, MCAC&C staff will determine how much, if any, on-site holding space is available at MCAC&C to provide additional holding time for New Hope partners to pick up the animal.

Euthanasia of a healthy dog or cat will ONLY be authorized if all of the following options have been exhausted and no alternatives are available to save the animal's life and find him/her an adoptive home.

**If MCAC&C's shelters are at capacity and euthanasia is required to make space for incoming stray or healthy animals, all of the following steps will be taken prior to euthanizing a healthy animal:**

1. Re-evaluate the animal to confirm that the "healthy" status is accurate and that there are no health or behavior issues that would warrant a change in status to "treatable" or "unhealthy/untreatable."
  - a. This will be done only by a trained behavior specialist or an MCAC&C staff person who has been specially trained and approved for this purpose.
  - b. MCAC&C staff will not change a "healthy" animal's status UNLESS there is legitimate evidence that the status is incorrect.
2. Immediately contact all New Hope groups via normal communication mechanisms (email, phone calls, LifeLine, etc.)
3. Simultaneously contact Maddie's partners via an emergency "phone tree" as follows:
  - a. The MCAC&C staff member with euthanasia and animal information calls the **Maddie's Project** emergency cellphone, which will be answered 24/7 by Maddie's staff.
  - b. The **Maddie's representative will contact three Maddie's partners**, which will each contact two other groups.  
(All will provide a phone number and alternate phone number that will be answered 24/7):
    - i. **Animal Rescue Center will call:**
      1. SOAR
      2. Foothills
    - ii. **HALO will call:**
      1. Pause 4 Paws
      2. AZARS
    - iii. **AAWL will call:**
      1. Sun Valley Animal Shelter
      2. Arizona Humane Society

Each caller on the phone tree will convey the following information to the groups it calls (for each animal):

- c. "A" Number
  - d. Type of animal (dog or cat)
  - e. Breed
  - f. Sex
  - g. Size/weight
  - h. Age
  - i. Sterilized? (if known)
  - j. Personality/temperament traits, as known
  - k. Special considerations, if known
  - l. How much time is available prior to pickup (i.e., holding potential on-site)
4. Each group called will convey the following information back to the person who contacted them (for each animal):
    - a. Can you New Hope the animal from MCAC&C?
      - i. If so, do you have space available immediately?
        1. If space is not available immediately, how long would you need the animal held at another location?
      - ii. If so, can you transport from MCAC&C to your own facility?
    - b. If you cannot New Hope this animal, could you hold the animal for up to 3 days until another group could pick up?
    - c. If you cannot New Hope the animal, could you transport from MCAC&C to another group or a boarding facility?
  5. If there is no answer, leave a message, and move on to the next group on your list. If you cannot reach a group that has responsibility to call others, you call the other two groups yourself. Every group on the phone tree will have all of the contact phone numbers.
  6. Each contact in the phone tree reports back to the person who called them, so that eventually the Maddie's contact relays a summary of available resources, including any agreements to New Hope, any transport resources, and any temporary holding resources, back to the original MCAC&C staff contact.
    - a. **A Maddie's staff report back to MCAC&C must be made within ONE HOUR of the initial call to the Maddie's emergency cellphone.**
  7. If there is no New Hope agreement or temporary holding space within Maddie's or other New Hope partners, Maddie's staff will attempt to locate boarding space at local kennels or veterinary clinics, in order to provide time for other groups to New Hope. Boarded animals will be taken back into MCAC&C as space becomes available, and they will be available for New Hope partners.
  8. If no approved paid boarding space is available, MCAC&C staff will notify Maddie's staff (via the Maddie's cellphone) and the director of MCAC&C that the No Kill Plan has been completed and there are no options available for the animals. At this point, the director of MCAC&C will decide whether to authorize the euthanasia.