



The Pet Rescue Foundation

Maddie's Fund® Community Grants Program

Maricopa County, AZ Pet Evaluation Matrix

The Maddie's Pet Rescue Project in Maricopa County, AZ has drafted a Pet Evaluation Matrix that describes how our community categorizes behavioral and medical conditions that we see in our animal sheltering system. This matrix was developed through the assessment of how we classify the animals in our organizations, and those who are actually euthanized, so that we can identify what challenges we face here in Maricopa County using consistent terms and definitions.

The Pet Evaluation Matrix is supposed to reflect, for each condition, whether the "average, caring pet caregiver in our community" would say it meets the Project's definition of "Healthy," "Treatable-Manageable," "Treatable-Rehabilitatable," or "Unhealthy and Untreatable." The Project's definitions are derived from the Asilomar Accords, drafted in 2004, ". . . for the purpose of building bridges across varying philosophies, developing relationships and creating goals focused on significantly reducing the euthanasia of healthy and treatable companion animals in the United States."

To accomplish this task, we have created a matrix (guide) of commonly-encountered behavior and medical conditions and assigned a code letter (or letters, in some cases) to each one. In the attached matrix, the code letters are used as follows:

H = Healthy

M = Treatable-Manageable

R = Treatable-Rehabilitatable

U = Unhealthy and Untreatable

At this point, the assigned code letters came from several sessions with AHS, AC&C and AAWL staff.

REMEMBER that the codes do *NOT* reflect how we as individuals would view the conditions, nor how our organizations would view them. These classifications are based on how the average, reasonable, caring pet caregiver, in our community, would view them considering the financial, logistical and time resources necessary to manage or treat each condition. These are our adopters, our neighbors, and the people who surrender animals to us.

Note: Assigning a code *DOES NOT*, in any way, imply that a particular outcome is expected or required from our organizations! For example, a "U" classification does not mean that an animal should or must be euthanized. We can certainly choose to treat that condition and find a home for that animal. However, these classifications will be used to help guide the Project and its partners as it works to save the treatable population of companion animals in our community.

Asilomar Accords Definitions

In order to facilitate the data collection process and assure consistent reporting across agencies, the following definitions have been developed. The Asilomar participants hope that these definitions are applied as a standard for categorizing dogs and cats in each organization. The definitions, however, are not meant to define the outcome for each animal entrusted to our care. A glossary and more specific details and examples are included in the appendix portion of this document.

Healthy: The term "healthy" means and includes all dogs and cats eight weeks of age or older that, at or subsequent to the time the animal is taken into possession, have manifested no sign of a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and have manifested no sign of disease, injury, a congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the animal or that is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future.

Treatable: The term "treatable" means and includes all dogs and cats who are "rehabilitatable" and all dogs and cats who are "manageable."

Rehabilitatable: The term "rehabilitatable" means and includes all dogs and cats who are not "healthy," but who are likely to become "healthy," if given medical, foster, behavioral, or other care equivalent to the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community.

Manageable: The term "manageable" means and includes all dogs and cats who are not "healthy" and who are not likely to become "healthy," regardless of the care provided; but who would likely maintain a satisfactory quality of life, if given medical, foster, behavioral, or other care, including long-term care, equivalent to the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring owners/guardians in the community; provided, however, that the term "manageable" does not include any dog or cat who is determined to pose a significant risk to human health or safety or to the health or safety of other animals.

Unhealthy and Untreatable: The term "unhealthy and untreatable" means and includes all dogs and cats who, at or subsequent to the time they are taken into possession,

(1) have a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that poses a health or safety risk or otherwise makes the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, and are not likely to become "healthy" or "treatable" even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community; or

(2) are suffering from a disease, injury, or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the animal's health or is likely to adversely affect the animal's health in the future, and are not likely to become "healthy" or "treatable" even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community; or

(3) are under the age of eight weeks and are not likely to become "healthy" or "treatable," even if provided the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community.

Medical Categories	
Condition	Category
Addison's Disease	U
Allergy - mild	M
Allergy - severe	U
Amputee - 1 limb	H
Amputee - 2 or more limbs	U
Arthritis	M/U
Auto-Immune Disease - mild	M
Auto-Immune Disease - severe	U
Bee stings - severe	U
Blind	U
Blind & Deaf	U
Bloat	U
Broken jaw	R
Broken limb	R
Burns, 1st degree	R
Burns, 2nd degree	R
Burns, 3rd degree	U
Cancer	U
Cardiomyopathy	U
Cherry eye	R
Collapsing Trachea	M
Cosmetic deformity	H
Cushing's disease	U
Deaf	M
Degloving injury	R
Dehydrated, WITHOUT organ failure	R
Dehydrated, WITH organ failure	U
Demodectic Mange	R/M

Dental tartar	M/R
Diabetes	U
Distemper	U
Dysplasia, mild	TM
Dysplasia, severe	U
Ectropion	R
Entropion	R
FeLV	U
FIP	U
FIV	U
Flea/tick allergies or infestation	R
Foreign body in GI tract	U
Geriatric	H
Heartworm, mild	R
Heartworm, severe	U
Incontinence	U
Inguinal hernia	R
Internal bleeding	U
Intestinal blockage/intussusception	U
Lameness	H
Lick granulomas	M/R
Lipomas	H
Luxating Patella	U
Malnourished, mild	R
Malnourished, severe	R
Massive head trauma	U
Mast cell tumors	U
Murmur	M/U
Near-drowning	R
Newborn failure to thrive	U
Obese	R

Organ failure	U
Pancreatitis	U
Panleukopenia	U
Paralysis, mild	M
Paralysis, severe	U
Parrot mouth (overbite)	H/M
Parvo	U
Pelvis, broken	R
Pelvis, crushed	U
Pica/ dietary indiscretion, recurring	U
Pneumothorax	R
Poisoning	U
Pregnant	R
Prolapsed rectum	U
Prolapsed uterus	U
Proptosed eye	R
Pyometra	R/U
Rabies	U
Ringworm	U
Sarcoptic mange	U
Scorpion bite	R
Seizures	M/U
Smoke inhalation	R
Snake bite	U
Solar dermatitis	R
Special Diet/Irritable Bowel	M/U
Spider bite	R
Thyroid	M/U
Tick Fever	M/U
Underbite	H
Underage-weaned	R

Underage-unweaned, orphan	U
Underage-unweaned, not an orphan	R
Upper Respiratory Infection	R
Valley Fever	U
Venereal disease/tumors	R/U
Wounds, puncture	R
Wounds, superficial	R

Behavior Categories

Term	Category	Remarks/Explanation
Aggression	U	Animals that are aggressive toward humans, dogs, cats and other species, placing the staff and community at risk.
Aggression-Canine Possession	M	Dog-to-dog aggression over possessions. Dogs are evaluated on level of severity.
Aggression-Human Possession	U	Dog-to-human aggression over possessions. Dogs are evaluated on level of severity.
Arousal-based aggression	U	Cannot de-escalate from excitement from playing or other stimulation.
Barrier aggression--no follow through	M	In kennels or household, growls, bares teeth, retreats, pilo-erects
Barrier aggression--with follow through	U	Lunges offensively, holds direct stare, attempts to bite humans/other dogs through kennel door.
Compliant	H	Easily controlled, appeases, willing to please
Compulsive behaviors	U	Chases lights/shadows, repetitive self injurious/self directed behaviors, stereotypic behavior such as spinning, etc. Evaluated based on severity.
Conflict-related aggression	U	Defensively aggresses in response to attempts to manage/control resources, space or body. Dogs are evaluated on level of severity.
Controlling	H	Attempts to change or manipulate human behavior to reach comfort level.
Control-related aggression	U	Offensively aggresses in response to attempts to manage/control resources, space or body. Dogs are evaluated on level of severity.

Escaping	U	Frequently digs/jumps/pushes out of yard or home
Fearful	M	Displays fearful behaviors -- shakes, hides, tucks tail. Takes time to interact.
Feral Cat	U	Over the age of 8 weeks and not sufficiently socialized to humans and therefore, reasonable and caring owners/guardians in our community would find them unsuitable as a pet.
Feral Dog	U	Over the age of 9 weeks and not sufficiently socialized to humans, and therefore, reasonable and caring owners/guardians in our community would find them unsuitable as a pet.
Handling sensitivities	M	Thwarts or preempts uncomfortable handling by reacting defensively or offensively.
High prey drive with follow through	M	Propensity to chase and possibly injure/kill prey. Dogs are evaluated on intended target.
High prey drive without follow through	M	Propensity to chase prey. Dogs are evaluated on intended target.
History (bites)	U	Animal has a history of biting, threatening or attacking humans or has severely injured/attacked another animal.
Hoarding resources	H	Takes resources away and seeks solitude with high valued items
Housetraining issues	U	Urinate/defecates in inappropriate locations in household with regularity (excluding puppies and kittens)
Moderate arousal	M	Easily excited, slow to calm, cannot focus on handler, difficult to restrain
Obvious signs of dog-fighting	U	History, observations or physical exam indicates dog has been bred or used for fighting
Separation anxiety	U	Severe destructive behavior; may exhibit self-injurious behavior. May be destructive to household.
Submissive/excitement urination	M/R	Urinate to indicate submission or when excited, inside the house or out
Unsocialized	U	Shows no interest in human contact. Goes out of its way to avoid human contact or interaction.
Undersocialized	R	Has had limited to no exposure to people, other animals, varying surroundings.

Urine marking	U	Marks furniture, walls, possessions with urine, inside house or out.
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