

COMMUNITY STANDARD OF CARE

The Maddie's Pet Rescue Project of Alachua County is now in the "healthy adoption guarantee" phase, year five. During this phase of the project the partners have worked diligently to establish a community standard of care. By assessing county demographics, animal health conditions, cost to treat common and specific conditions, and concerns related to specific diseases and/or behavior, we have determined what conditions and/or behavior issues a reasonable and caring pet owner would treat in their own companion dog or cat. The partners of the project recognize that this standard is difficult to assess, quantify, and scientifically validate. Through careful assessment of veterinary input, rescue agency input, and brief polling of adopters we have established the following guidelines and definitions.

Reasonable and Caring Pet Owner: A pet owner who will, within their financial and logistical means, provide consistent home-based and/or professional care for pets that they own. Reasonable and caring pet owners will ensure that pets are free of pain and discomfort, well fed, given a reasonable amount of personal attention and provide preventative care for preventable illnesses.

ASILOMAR ACCORDS - APPLIED TO A REASONABLE AND CARING PET OWNER'S STANDARD OF CARE.

Healthy animal- an animal that needs little or no financial investment and/or time investment to become healthy/adopted by a reasonable and caring pet owner.

Treatable-Rehabilitatable animal- an animal that needs some/moderate financial and/or time investment to become healthy/adopted by a reasonable and caring pet owner.

Treatable-Manageable animal – an animal that needs substantial, consistent, and continual financial and/or time investment to become adopted by a reasonable and caring pet owner and will likely continually need some level of additional care/management that is greater than both Rehabilitatable and Healthy animals.

Unhealthy & Untreatable animal- an animal that due to health or behavioral conditions is unfit for adoption by a reasonable and caring pet owner.

For the purposes of clarity the following animals will be classified as:

Healthy

- Animals that are free from all behavioral aggression towards both other animals and humans.
- Animals that require \$50 or less of financial investment to be free of physical ailments, medical illnesses, and/or behavioral training.

Rehabilitatable

- Animals that are free from aggression towards humans but may show a limited degree of aggression to other animals.
- Animals that require minimal behavioral modification to become healthy/adopted by a reasonable and caring pet owner.
- Animals that require more than \$50 of financial investment to be free of physical ailments, medical illnesses, and/or behavioral issues.
- Animals that risk the health status of other animals of the same and/or other species, through physical proximity that have a temporary/treatable illness that may be contagious on a temporary basis.

Manageable

- Animals that are aggressive to a subgroup of humans (children/men/women/ethnicities) that could potentially be placed into a highly structured environment free of aggressive triggers.
- Animals that are aggressive to other animals that could likely not be placed into a home with other animals (of the same or different species) for the safety of all residents within the home.
- Animals that require substantial time investment to become adopted by a reasonable and caring pet owner.
- Animals that require consistent and continual financial investment to treat physical ailments, medical illness and/or behavioral issues.
- Animals that risk the health status of other animals of the same and/or other species, through physical proximity because of non-treatable/permanent and/or contagious illness.

Unhealthy & Untreatable

- Animals that are aggressive to humans consistently or intermittently with or without cause.
- Any animal that is known to have physically harmed a human (exception- if the person harmed was known to have, at the time of the incident, been harming the animal in a manner consistent with misdemeanor or felony animal cruelty, or if the injury was due to animal vs. animal fighting and the individual was inadvertently bitten and not attacked as a result of breaking up this fight).
- Animals that are in pain due to health, age, or other issues that can not be kept comfortable and free of symptoms.
- Animals that are excessively prone to aggression of any/all animals regardless of species.