

Asilomar Definitions and Classification Guidelines

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #E103.2

Written: July 2, 2008
Updated: February 12, 2009

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REVIEWED:

Initials				
Date	/ /2009	/ /2010	/ /2011	/ /2012

SCOPE AND APPLICATION. This procedure is used to describe standardized definitions used by BEBHS to classify the health and behavioral status of animals at intake and exit.

PERSPECTIVE. BEBHS participates in the Asilomar Accords, a set of guidelines produced in 2004 at a meeting of animal welfare leaders. One component of the Accords is a set of standardized definitions to classify the health and behavioral status of shelter animals at intake and exit. These classifications are used for statistical tracking to help individual shelters and the overall animal welfare community achieve a better understanding of lifesaving progress nationwide. Participating in and publishing Asilomar Accords statistics is also a requirement for funding eligibility from some funding sources.

The following definitions are utilized to classify the status of BEBHS animals. Animals placed in our adoption program may be classified as healthy, treatable/rehabilitatable, or treatable/manageable. Animals entering the shelter as untreatable will not be placed in the adoption program.

BEBHS is committed to saving the life of every animal classified as healthy and those animals classified as rehabilitatable and/or manageable within the resources of society and/ or the new owner. The examples provided below each definition are in no way all inclusive and each animal's circumstance is examined thoroughly before being classified.

Animals must be classified at both intake and exit and results tracked in iShelter. Animals who experience any illness requiring treatment while in the shelter may not be classified as healthy at exit regardless of health status at exit (because this classification is designed to reflect any medical resources directed toward the animal while in the shelter).

PERSONNEL. This procedure is upheld and communicated by all staff and volunteers. These methods are performed primarily by the Canine Lead, Canine Associates, Feline Lead, Feline Associates, and Intake Technicians with support from Medical Director, Training Manager, and Shelter Manager.

PROCEDURE. The below classifications are used.

Healthy (H)

Those animals 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. These

animals are generally well socialized and need no medical or behavioral intervention.

Treatable/ Rehabilitatable (TR)

Those animals under the age of eight weeks (not weaned or eating on their own) or those animals found to have a treatable medical, congenital, hereditary, or behavioral condition that poses no significant health or safety risk to others. These animals 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. The medical and behavioral prognosis must be fair to good to meet this definition. These animals may be made available for adoption during their treatment and it may be necessary for the new owner to assume the responsibility for continued treatment following adoption. The following are examples and are not all-inclusive.

- Medical
 - o Treatable viral, bacterial, fungal, or parasitic infections (such as kennel cough, upper respiratory infections, intestinal or skin parasites); minor trauma/wounds; mild periodontal disease or fractured teeth; emaciation or dehydration due to neglect or to the above.

Treatable/ Manageable (TM)

Those animals who are not healthy and 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. The medical and behavioral prognosis must be fair to good to meet this definition. The new owner assumes responsibility for continued treatment. The following are only examples and are not all-inclusive.

- Medical
 - o Severe viral, bacterial, or fungal infections; hyperthyroidism; hypothyroidism; heart murmurs/ mild cardiac disease; asymptomatic heartworm disease; fractures/ wounds; abscesses; arthritis; mild allergies (skin, GI, conjunctiva); ear infections; some ocular conditions such as dry eye; moderate-severe periodontal disease; FIV; benign growths/ masses; localized or generalized demodicosis (except

in immune compromised adult animals); feline idiopathic cystitis/ lower urinary tract syndrome; congenital neurologic conditions that allow adequate function.

- Behavioral
 - o Resource guarding that does not involve perimeter guarding, multiple items, or provides no warning signs; mild-moderate inappropriate elimination; shyness; fearfulness; territorial issues involving cats only; some cases of redirected aggression; reactivity or impulse control; escape behaviors.

Untreatable/ Unhealthy (UU)

Those animals 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
- 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 given the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/ guardians in the community
- 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
 - o Severe viral (canine parvo, canine distemper, feline leukemia, feline panleukopenia, feline infectious peritonitis), bacterial, or fungal infection; known malignant tumor; renal or liver failure; neurologic signs that are not congenital and/or compromise quality of life or cause seizures; severe heart disease (loud heart murmur/ congestive heart failure and symptomatic heartworm disease in dogs; known cardiomyopathy in cats; severe congenital cardiac defects); severe chronic allergic otitis or skin disease; moderate to severe gingivostomatitis; diabetes; Cushing's disease; other severe endocrine disease; inflammatory bowel disease not manageable with diet alone; other immune-mediated condition; severe chronic feline lower urinary tract disease;

severe trauma; severe degenerative joint disease/dysplasia; severe ocular disease; history of any of above from shelter or prior owner; history of chronic undiagnosed disease from shelter or previous owner; history of "heavy duty" drug use (such as steroids) without a diagnosis.

- Behavioral
 - o Severe separation anxiety; aggression causing injury and/or unprovoked human aggression (providing no warning signs recognizable by the average public); conditions that require medication to control or manage the undesired behaviors; resource guarding that includes perimeters or multiple items; predatory behavior including lunging, extreme overt aggression or re-directed aggression to the handler; intense escalation of arousal with no calming; dog and/or other animal aggression that indicates the animal being assessed would cause damage to the other animal; severe inappropriate elimination; severe shyness; undersocialized with or without extreme fearfulness; territorial aggression; unable to handle with normal touch.

PROCEDURES.

- 1) At intake, the Intake Technician and Canine/Feline Lead classify each animal as H, TR, TM, or UU and enters the status into iShelter.
- 2) If concurrent medical and behavioral concerns are present, the animal should be classified into the "lower" of the two categories, reflecting the more serious concern.
- 3) If at any point during the animal's stay, the classification is downgraded, the Intake Technician or Canine/Feline Lead will enter this information as an Alert in avimark.
- 4) At exit (adoption, transfer, euthanasia) the Adoption Associate classifies each animal again (based on reading the Avimark alert) as H, TR, TM, or UU and enters this information into iShelter.
- 5) An animal's status can never be upgraded, only downgraded, because the intent of this system is to reflect resources spent while the animal is in the shelter. Therefore, a kitten with URI who is well at adoption, if classified as TR at intake, is still classified as TR at exit (not as H).

Berkeley Coalition Animal Classifications

Category	BACS	BEBHS	HAL
Healthy	<p>(referred to as Adoptable)</p> <p>Animals six weeks of age and weaned or older. At, or subsequent to, the time of impound or when possession is taken these animals have not manifested signs of behavioral or temperamental defects, which could pose a health or safety risk, or deem the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet or disease, injury, congenital hereditary conditions that adversely affects the health of the animal, or will adversely affect the animal's health in the future.</p>	<p>Animals eight weeks of age or older that manifest 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. These animals are generally well socialized and need no medical or behavioral intervention.</p>	<p>(HAL's classifications closely match those of BEBHS. Please refer to the previous column.)</p>
Treatable	<p>Animals who are not currently adoptable, but who could become so with reasonable efforts. The conditions contributing to this classification may be medical, behavioral, or temperamental.</p> <p>Medical conditions include pregnancy, Kennel cough, Flea anemia, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Ringworm, Skin condition mange, Upper respiratory problems, Conjunctivitis, Gingivitis and dental disease, Heart murmurs, Urinary Tract infections, Lameness, Arthritis, Eye injuries and cataracts, Deafness, Parasites (worms), Ear mites, Fleas, Any conditions</p>	<p>Rehabilitatable - Animals under the age of eight weeks or those animals found to have a treatable medical, congenital, hereditary, or behavioral condition that poses no significant health or safety risk to others. Likely to become healthy if given medical, foster, behavioral care.</p> <p>Medical and behavioral prognosis must be fair to good to meet this definition. These animals may be made available for adoption during their treatment. Medical conditions include treatable viral, bacterial, fungal, or parasitic infections, minor trauma/wounds, mild periodontal disease or fractured teeth, emaciation or dehydration.</p>	<p>(HAL's classifications closely match those of BEBHS. Please refer to the previous column.)</p>

Berkeley Coalition Animal Classifications

	<p>deemed treatable by a veterinarian, A veterinarian may recommend euthanasia for humane reasons should any of these conditions be severe or if the animal is not responding to treatment.</p> <p>Treatable behavioral and temperamental conditions include Inappropriate elimination, Excessive barking or meowing, Non-severe possession aggression, Non-severe fearful tendencies, Not using litter box, Non-severe dog or cat aggressiveness.</p>	<p>Manageable - Animals who are not healthy and 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 care</p> <p>Medical and behavioral prognosis must be fair to good to meet this definition.</p> <p>Medical conditions include severe viral, bacterial, or fungal infections; hyperthyroidism; hypothyroidism; heart murmurs/ mild cardiac disease; asymptomatic heartworm disease; fractures/ wounds; abscesses; arthritis; mild allergies; ear infections; some ocular conditions; moderate- severe periodontal disease; FIV; benign growths/ masses; localized or generalized demodicosis; feline idiopathic cystitis/ lower urinary tract syndrome; congenital neurologic conditions.</p> <p>Behavioral conditions include certain types of resource guarding; mild-moderate inappropriate elimination; shyness; fearfulness; territorial issues involving cats only; some cases of redirected aggression; reactivity or impulse control; escape behaviors.</p>	
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Berkeley Coalition Animal Classifications

<p>Unhealthy/Untreatable</p>	<p>(referred to as “Non-rehabilitatable”)</p> <p>Includes animals for which euthanasia is the most humane alternative due to disease or injury; biting animals, the placement of whom would constitute a danger to the public; animals who pose a serious public health hazard.</p> <p>Temperament/Behavior: An animal who has exhibited aggressive tendencies and whose behavior presents a potential liability if adopted out to the public.</p> <p>Medical: An animal is not responding to medical treatment after 7 days and its suffering is chronic, it may be euthanized when deemed by a veterinarian that there is no likely relief.</p>	<p>Animals who, at or subsequent to the time they are taken into possession:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 3. Are under the age of eight weeks <p>AND are not likely to become healthy or treatable even if given the care typically provided to pets by reasonable and caring pet owners/guardians in the community. These animals are not placed in the adoption program and may be euthanized after lengthy evaluation of the circumstances.</p> <p>Medical conditions include severe viral, bacterial, or fungal infection; known malignant tumor; renal or liver failure; certain neurologic signs; severe heart disease; severe chronic allergic otitis or skin disease; moderate to severe gingivostomatitis; diabetes; Cushing’s disease; other severe endocrine disease; certain inflammatory bowel disease; other immune-mediated condition; severe chronic feline lower urinary tract disease; severe trauma;</p>	<p>HAL’s classifications are similar those of BEBHS. (Please refer to the previous column.) Slight variance exists in evaluation of behavioral conditions that would require euthanasia.</p>
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Berkeley Coalition Animal Classifications

		<p>severe degenerative joint disease/dysplasia; severe ocular disease; history of any of above from shelter or prior owner; history of chronic undiagnosed disease from shelter or previous owner; history of "heavy duty" drug use without a diagnosis.</p> <p>Behavioral conditions include severe separation anxiety; aggression causing injury and/or unprovoked human aggression; conditions that require medication to control or manage the undesired behaviors; resource guarding that includes perimeters or multiple items; certain predatory behavior; intense escalation of arousal with no calming; certain dog and/or other animal aggression; severe inappropriate elimination; severe shyness; undersocialized with or without extreme fearfulness; territorial aggression; unable to handle with normal touch.</p>	
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