

DEFINITIONS for Overall Evaluation of Animals

(adapted by AWLQ from definitions in the ASILOMAR ACCORD, No Kill Advocacy Centre Lifesaving Matrix, and Oregon Humane Society Pet Evaluation Matrix)

Healthy: Animals that show no sign of disease, injury, or congenital condition that adversely affects the well-being of the animal; and that are sociable, showing no sign of any behavioural or temperamental defect that could pose a health or safety risk to the community. This includes:

- Young animals under 8 weeks, including those who are healthy, but need bottle-feeding.
- Old animals
- Pregnant animals
- Animals that seek out human interaction or are approachable, and accepting, even if aloof, with people and other companion animals

Treatable: This includes all animals who are **rehabilitatable** or **manageable**.

Rehabilitatable

Any animal who is not healthy i.e. shows a behavioural/temperamental defect and/or illness, injury or condition that adversely affects his/her well-being, but who could become healthy with reasonable effort. Whether an animal is treatable is determined by balancing the four primary factors and their impact on the animal:

1. diagnosis, 2. prognosis, 3. painful rehabilitation or otherwise suffering, and 4. length of rehabilitation. Cost, resources or holding periods do not determine whether an animal is categorized as treatable.

This includes:

Health issues such as cat flu, ringworm, cocci, skin condition, broken bones, dental conditions, from which an animal can fully recover

Behavioural issues such as fearfulness, timidity, from which an animal can fully recover

Manageable

Any animal who is not healthy i.e. shows a behavioural/temperament defect and/or illness injury or condition that adversely affects his/her well-being and who is not likely to become “healthy”, regardless of the care provided; but who would likely maintain satisfactory quality of life, if given medical, foster, behavioural, or other care, including long term care, equivalent to the care typically provided by reasonable and caring people in the community. This does not include those animals that pose a significant health or safety risk to humans or other companion animals.

This includes:

Health issues such as allergies, diabetes, FIV, Overshot jaw, glaucoma, arthritis that can be managed so that the animal remains comfortable

Behavioural issues such as attacking chickens, which can be managed by being housed so that they are not exposed to poultry.

Feral Cats i.e. cats under-socialised or not socialised to people. Most unowned or “feral” cats belong in the treatable category. While these cats cannot be immediately handled

without fear of injury to the handler, if they are left alone these cats are usually not a danger to people. In most cases therefore we do not believe feral cats should be considered non-rehabilitatable or non-manageable. For example, some will be rehabilitatable, given a socialization program and careful rehoming; others may be manageable in small colonies if desexed, identified, ear marked, and fed so as to minimise impact on native wildlife e.g. in a city office, factory or public institution environment i.e. hospital, school/university grounds.

They require different kinds of intervention to give them quality of life.

AWL Qld is exploring the legal, welfare, wildlife and community impacts of unowned/free-roaming/feral cat care with other interested stakeholders, and is interested in developing programs which give equal consideration to their lives.

Untreatable:

This includes:

Irremediably suffering: This includes non-rehabilitatable animals in severe pain and discomfort.

This can include:

Critically injured animals, Canine Parvovirus (particularly in puppies), cancer with a poor prognosis, renal failure (last stages), FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus)

Vicious/Dangerous Dogs

Dogs who have a propensity to or history of causing grievous bodily harm to people or other dogs, even when the dog is not hungry, in pain, or frightened, and whose prognosis for rehabilitation is poor. From a behavioural standpoint, these dogs are considered unrehabilitatable or unmanageable.