



# Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals<sup>®</sup>

*Adopt a Little New Yorker Today!*

## Maddie's Fund Categorizations/Definitions of Shelter Animals

### Types of Organizations

**Animal Control:** Municipal agencies or animal organizations that contract with local governments to provide animal control services.

**Traditional:** Animal organizations that manage shelter populations by euthanizing pets who are considered to be *healthy* or *treatable* in addition to *unhealthy & untreatable* animals.

**Adoption Guarantee:** Organizations that save all the *healthy* and *treatable* animals under their care, with euthanasia reserved only for *unhealthy & untreatable* animals. An adoption guarantee organization could be an animal shelter, rescue group, foster care organization, or sanctuary.

A shelter does not have to say it's an adoption guarantee organization, but it does have to: 1) Save all of the *healthy* and *treatable* animals who come under its care; and 2) Use the definitions of *healthy*, *treatable*, and *unhealthy & untreatable* as defined by [Maddie's Fund](#). Additionally, the shelter must clearly articulate to its community that it saves all healthy and treatable animals and provide appropriate shelter data to the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals.

### Categorizations/Definitions of Shelter Animals

**Healthy:** The term *healthy* means and includes all dogs and cats eight weeks of age or older who, 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, or 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. (These conditions are generally considered to be curable.)

**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 pet 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. (These conditions are generally considered to be chronic.)

**Unhealthy & Untreatable:** The term *unhealthy & untreatable* means and includes 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.