



Animal Placement by Type: Time Goals

Animal type	Ideal Goal timeline	Acceptable goal	Notes
Neonates 0-4 weeks old	3 hours	Same day	
Neonates 0-4 weeks old with mom	Same day	48 hours	If no foster coordinator then 72 hours
Puppies/kittens 4-6 weeks old - if eating on its own	Same day	24 hours	
Puppies/kittens 6-8 weeks old	Same day	24 hours	Available for foster to adopt or preadopt
Puppies/kittens 8-12 weeks old with stray hold	Same day	Stray hold time period expiration	If possible, place it in foster within 24 hours as an extension of shelter for stray hold
Puppies/kittens 8-12 weeks old without stray hold	Same day	24 hours	
Puppies/kittens 12-20 weeks	24 hours	48 hours	If possible, place it in foster within 24 hours as an extension of shelter for stray hold
Healthy Adult Dog	72 hours	End of stray hold	
Mildly sick/injured* dog	72 hours	End of stray hold	If no resources to provide medical/treat then the animal needs to leave immediately
Moderately sick/injured* dog	24 hours	End of stray hold	If no resources to provide medical/treat then the animal needs to leave immediately



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Severe sick/injured* dog - if no vet/resources available	3 hours	Same day	
Severe sick/injured* dog - vet and resources available	Hospitalize	Once stable	
Life threatening Infectious disease* dog - With isolation within the shelter and treatment	Hospitalize	Once stable	NOT ringworm/Sarcops
Life threatening Infectious disease* dog - without isolation within the shelter or treatment	Immediately	Same day	NOT ringworm/Sarcops Assuming this dog will not be in kennels surrounded by other dogs. Needs to be completely isolated
Non-life threatening Infectious disease* dog - With isolation within the shelter and treatment	24 hours	72 hours	Respiratory diseases, ringworm, sarcops, etc.
Non-life threatening Infectious disease* dog - Without isolation within the shelter and treatment	Same Day	24 hours	Respiratory diseases, ringworm, sarcops, etc
Owner Surrender Dogs with mild* behavior	24 hours	72 hours	
Stray Dogs with mild* behavior	Stray hold	Stray hold plus 48 hours	



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Owner Surrender Dogs with moderate* behavior	72 hours	5 days	This will be based on history from owner versus how they are behaving in shelter
Stray Dogs with moderate* behavior	Stray hold	Stray hold plus 5 days	
Owner Surrender Dogs with advanced* behavior	14 days for evaluation and seeking alternate placement, 30 days if alternate placement is secured; 90 days if you have resources to work with this dog	90 + days because you have resources to work with this dog	This is for shelters that actually have the resources to work with this dog through behavior team - if not, a partnership is best outcome
Stray dogs with advanced* behavior	14 days for evaluation and seeking alternate placement, 30 days if alternate placement is secured; 90 days because you have resources to work with this dog	90 + days because you have resources to work with this dog	This is for shelters that actually have the resources to work with this dog through behavior team - if not, a partnership is best outcome
Healthy Adult Community Cat*	SNR within 24 hours	SNR within 4 days	
Owner Surrender Healthy Adult Cat	24 hours	72 hours	
Mildly sick/injured* Cat	24 hours	72 hours	
Moderately sick/injured* cat	Same day	48 hours	If no resources to provide medical/treat then the animal needs to leave immediately



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Severe sick/injured* cat - if no vet/resources available	3 hours	Same day	
Severe sick/injured* cat with vet/resources available	hospitalize	Once Stable	
Life threatening Infectious disease* cat - With isolation within the shelter and treatment	Hospitalize	Once stable	NOT ringworm/Sarcops Assuming this cat will not be in kennels surrounded by other cats. Needs to be completely isolated
Life threatening Infectious disease* cat - without isolation within the shelter or treatment	Immediately	Same day	NOT ringworm/Sarcops Assuming this cat will not be in kennels surrounded by other cats. Needs to be completely isolated
Non-life threatening Infectious disease* cat- With isolation within the shelter and treatment	24 hours	72 hours	Respiratory diseases, ringworm, sarcops, etc.
Non-life threatening Infectious disease* cat- Without isolation within the shelter and treatment	Same Day	24 hours	Respiratory diseases, ringworm, sarcops, etc
Cats with behavior* issues (non feral)	48 hours	72 hours	Can be undergoing medical eval concurrently

*Definitions



Community cat

A term used to describe outdoor unowned free-roaming cats. These cats could be friendly, feral, adults, kittens, healthy, sick, altered and/or unaltered. They may or may not have a caregiver but do not have an owner.

SNR Shelter-Neuter-Return (aka RTF Return to Field)

A program where healthy free-roaming cats, owned or unowned and of any temperament, brought to the shelter are neutered, vaccinated, and ear-tipped and then returned to the area from which they were taken by the shelter itself.

TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return)

Programs where animal advocates, either individuals or organizations, humanely trap free-roaming cats, have them altered, vaccinated, and ear-tipped, and return them to their habitats.

Mild illness

Common signs of **mild** illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise include (but are not limited to): Onset of giving birth, intermittent scratching, slight limping, isolated/occasional vomiting of food without any other signs, isolated/occasional soft stool without any other signs, minor scrape or abrasion, etc.

Mild illnesses, injuries, abnormalities, or compromising conditions are those which present with a single finding without any other signs, do not interfere with healthy eating, drinking, breathing, mobility, elimination, do not cause pain or distress.

Moderate illness

Moderate illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise are those which cannot be directly attributed to a specific cause of mild compromise, cause pain or distress, interfere with healthy eating, drinking, or elimination, or cause impaired mobility, etc.

Common signs of moderate illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise include (but are not limited to): lethargy, anorexia, persistent vomiting, persistent diarrhea, skin lesions or abrasions that are present during or after intake or that worsen during the first 72 hours of impoundment, etc.

Emergent illness

Emergency illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise are those which are life threatening without immediate veterinary care.

Common signs of emergency illness, injury, abnormality, or compromise include (but are not limited to): lethargy, unable to stand, white/blue/purple gums, difficulty or labored breathing, persistent vomiting, inability to urinate or defecate, deep wounds/exposed bones, seizures, etc.



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Life-threatening Infectious Disease

Illness which is life threatening without immediate veterinary care and is infectious (able to infect) to other animals and even potentially humans (zoonotic).

Examples: parvovirus, distemper, panleukopenia, canine influenza virus (CIV), strep zoo, rabies

Non-life threatening Infectious Disease

Illness which is not life threatening, at least not initially, and is infectious (able to infect) to other animals and even potentially humans (zoonotic)

Examples: ringworm, sarcoptic mange, canine infectious respiratory disease (presenting as "kennel cough" and not suspected of being CIV or distemper), feline upper respiratory infection.

Cats with behavior issues (non-feral)

Cats with multiple, unprovoked, documented bites causing skin break and significant injury; who are non-feral but cannot be handled in shelter within 72 hours of decompression; or present probable and significant risk to human safety through aggression.

Dogs with mild behavior issues

History: Has no out-of-shelter history of aggression or reactivity

Common examples: Leash pulling, minor over-arousal (jumping/mouthing), generalized or contextual fear without defensiveness or high flight response, boredom behaviors (chewing, digging), mild separation anxiety (whining, barking, etc. [no history of self-injury or property damage]).

Out of kennel: Can be successfully handled by personnel with limited training/knowledge and can likely find live outcome without intensive behavior modification.

In kennel: Can present with barrier reactivity (barking, growling) that can be worked by any staff member (click for quiet, four on floor, etc.) and does not commonly occur outside of the kennel.

Dogs with moderate behavior issues

History: May have out-of-shelter history of moderate behavior issues (listed below)

Common Examples: On-leash reactivity to dogs, defensive aggression to dogs, predictable and manageable stranger danger to humans (dog can reliably meet humans with structured greeting routine), mild to moderate prey drive, more challenging versions of the behaviors listed under "mild behaviors".

Out of kennel: Personnel required to have prior training/knowledge to successfully handle the dog. Dog will likely require some level of training/behavior modification and personalized adoption counseling/matchmaking to find live outcome. Dog may also require post-adoption support to remain in home.

In kennel: May be unsafe to handle by inexperienced or unknown staff

Dogs with Advanced behavior issues

**Dogs who pose a potential danger to the community without intensive training and consistent demonstration of successful behavior modification*



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History: May have out-of-shelter history of serious aggression, severe reactivity, or severe prey drive.

Common Examples: Territorial aggression to humans, generalized resource guarding to humans, resource guarding of handler to humans, severe defensive aggression to humans, offensive aggression to dogs, severe/unmanageable on-leash reactivity, more severe versions of behaviors listed under "moderate behavior".

*Requires trained behavior personnel to handle and/or effectively train at all times while in shelter.