

Outcome Pathways

Each animal will be reviewed on an individual basis, but these are the general guidelines that will be followed, to be used in conjunction with the Behavior Decision Matrix.

	Behavior – Bites	Behavior – Animal/Animal Altercations	Behavior – Other Behaviors	Medical	Medical and Behavior Deadline
Euthanasia (not placed on portal)	<p>-Level 4, Level 5, or Level 6 bite(s) on record or in shelter</p> <p>-Level 3b bite(s) on record or at shelter (review decision matrix, may be candidate for NHO)</p> <p>-Level 3a bite(s) or above to torso or face on record or in shelter when option to bite elsewhere is present</p> <p>-Incident of running at large and biting someone (level 3a or higher) unprovoked</p> <p>-Multiple bite incidents in history or shelter that are 3a or above (unless all incidents can be considered an extreme circumstance)</p> <p>-Pattern of escalating bite levels</p>	<p>-Killed or severely injured another dog in an event that cannot be considered accidental or an extreme circumstance</p> <p>-Killed or severely injured another animal of similar size while running at large</p> <p>-Dog has multiple incidents of killing or severely injuring other domestic or livestock animals while at large</p> <p>-Dog-to-dog altercation where dog latches on and extreme measures (requires more than 2 people to separate, more than water or noise had to be utilized) need to be used to get them to release</p> <p>-Dog-to-dog altercation where dog latches on causing injury and extreme measures need to be used to get them to release, OR relatching occurs with or without injury, OR dog escaped confinement and actively pursued another dog and latched on</p> <p>-Dog is running at large and attacks another dog resulting in injury to the other dog or a bite to a person</p> <p>*All decisions in this category will consider all aspects of the situation, including animal confinement, type of animal killed/injured, and surrounding circumstances of the behavior before deciding animal may not be placed*</p>	<p>-Unable to safely remove from kennel and would not be able to safely get an animal in a crate for transport</p> <p>-Unable to be touched during whole stay at shelter unless defensive handling used, without the following potential mitigating factors: positive history outside shelter, age (i.e. puppies), or size</p> <p>-An extreme behavior concern that creates a safety risk for the community</p> <p>-Severe behavioral concern that creates a poor quality of life** for the animal even with behavior intervention</p> <p>-Extreme behavioral concern that is unable to be handled by the average adopter even with post-adoption support or is a risk to the safety of the public</p> <p>-A combination of behavioral and medical concerns that is unable to be handled by the average adopter even with post-adoption support</p> <p>-A bite history paired with another extreme or moderate behavior concern</p> <p>-The Five Domains cannot be provided to the dog in the shelter or home environment</p>	<p>-Rapidly declining quality of life **</p> <p>-Severe trauma</p> <p>-Canine Distemper Virus : Symptomatic with POSITIVE Respiratory PCR Result of “Wild type”</p>	NONE

****Poor Quality of Life defined as any condition in which:**

- Available resources have been exhausted or are not able to alleviate medical or behavioral suffering.
- Animal is declining despite supportive services.
- High probability that the animal will expire on its own within a few hours as a result of its current state.
- Animal is existing in a state of trauma or decomp that prevents essential functions/handling.

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New Hope Only Priority (given a deadline and placed on portal)	<p>-Level 3b bite(s) on record or at shelter (review decision matrix, may be candidate for adoption or euthanasia)</p> <p>-Level 3a bite(s) on record or at shelter (review decision matrix, may still be candidate for adoption)</p> <p>-Level 1 or Level 2 bite(s) (review decision matrix, may still be candidate for adoption)</p> <p>-Redirects on handler while on leash but does not break skin</p>	<p>-Dog has a history of multiple dog-to-dog altercations without significant injury in or out of shelter paired with high levels of reactivity on leash or in yard to other dogs</p> <p>-Dog has a history of injuring another dog in or out of shelter paired with high levels of reactivity on leash or in yard to other dogs</p> <p>-Dog-to-dog altercation where dog latches on and extreme measures (requires more than 2 people to separate, more than water or noise had to be utilized) need to be used to get them to release, but no injury or relatching occurs</p>	<p>-Extensive thrashing and biting at leash which continues in bucket (unable to safely take to yard or walk)</p> <p>-Extreme jumping/mouthiness where dog is grabbing at limbs/clothing and holding on that will not stop with food or other interruptions</p> <p>-Leash biting that poses threat to handlers’ safety (biting up leash) that cannot be interrupted with treats or other methods</p> <p>-Moderate behavioral concern that is unable to be handled by the average adopter without specific post-adoption support</p> <p>-Dog is only able to be handled by select staff members or is unable to receive needed medical treatment due to behavior</p> <p>-Dog is demonstrating a behavioral concern that is a safety risk for conducting adoption meet and greets with the average adopter or would lead to excessive FAS for the dog</p> <p>-Dog is demonstrating a behavioral concern that is a safety risk to house in the shelter long-term</p>	All standard Behavior deadlines are 5 days	<p>-Canine Parvovirus - positive SNAP parvo test result</p> <p>-21 days or more unresolved CIRDC, unaltered and medically deemed not eligible for surgical alteration</p> <p>-Significant heart murmur, unaltered and medically deemed not eligible for surgical alteration</p> <p>-Fractures</p> <p>-Pregnant (deadline will be for ovariectomy, not for euthanasia)</p> <p>-Some tumors (e.g. large mammary, suspected hemangiosarcoma, squamous cell carcinoma, etc.)</p> <p>-Disseminated Valley Fever</p> <p>-Diabetes/DKA/suspected endocrinopathy</p> <p>-Chronic/severe skin conditions, unaltered and medically deemed not eligible for surgical alteration</p> <p>-Seizure(s)</p>	<p>Up to 3 days</p> <p>7-9 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p> <p>3-5 days</p> <p>Up to 3 days</p> <p>3-5 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p> <p>3-5 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p>

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<p>Priority Need – Adoptable</p> <p>(given a deadline and placed on portal and remains on adoptable page)</p>			<p>-Increasing levels of deterioration in kennel that are consistent with self-harm or mental distress and dog does not meet any of the above criteria while out in the yard</p> <p>-Moderate levels of anxiety and distress in yard documented on multiple occasions including escape behavior, constant pacing, or unable to focus on handler, but has a good history in home and/or is doing well in kennel</p>	All standard Behavior deadlines are 5 days	<p>-21 days or more unresolved CIRDC, already altered or still suitable for surgical alteration</p> <p>-Significant heart murmur, already altered or still suitable for surgical alteration</p> <p>-Suspect Cruciate Ligament tear/severe soft tissue injury to limb</p> <p>-Chronic/severe skin conditions, already altered or still suitable for surgical alteration</p> <p>-Chronic ear infections</p> <p>-Reducible non-umbilical hernias that have already been altered</p> <p>-Severe ocular disease</p> <p>-Cherry Eye with secondary ocular disease</p>	<p>7-9 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p> <p>5-7 days</p>

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IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

- Medical deadlines are determined by the day of the week the vet check is performed and the animal's medical condition assessed by our staff veterinarians.
- Deadlines may not be the same for each animal, even if the medical or behavioral condition is the same, due to severity, concurrent issues of each animal, and the quality of the animal's life.
- There may be occasions where a deadline has to be adjusted from the above guidelines due to extenuating circumstances.
- If an animal is found to be decompensating quicker than deadline date, it may be euthanized prior to the documented deadline date.
- This matrix is not all-inclusive, it is meant to be a general guideline. Medical decisions and deadlines will be determined by staff veterinarians only, on a case-by-case basis. Behavioral decisions and deadlines will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Outcome Evaluation Committee (OEC).
- If a dog requires a medical deadline, and also has behavior concerns that require a behavior deadline, the deadline date and outcome pathway will be based on the dog's most urgent and highest category need. If one deadline is removed, the other deadline may remain with the original timeline.

ADOPTABLE – Healthy enough to go to the general public, must be altered prior to leaving the shelter.

PRIORITY MEDICAL (adoptable) – Has a medical issue that needs further outside DVM care. Can be adopted (must be altered prior to leaving the shelter) or go with a New Hope Partner. Animal is given a deadline for humane euthanasia.

NEW HOPE ONLY PRIORITY MEDICAL – Has a medical issue that requires immediate assistance/resources beyond what the shelter can provide or prevents the animal from being surgically altered in our care. Must go with a New Hope Partner. Animal is given a deadline for either humane euthanasia or surgical alteration if pregnant.

PRIORITY BEHAVIOR (adoptable) – Usually due to kennel deterioration or high FAS in shelter. Can be adopted or go with a New Hope Partner. Animal is given a deadline for humane euthanasia.

NEW HOPE ONLY PRIORITY BEHAVIOR – Behavior concern that needs specific support, safety concern for staff, or unable to perform meet & greet with adopters. Must go with a New Hope Partner. Animal is given a deadline for humane euthanasia.

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Tools to Guide Behavior Euthanasia Decisions

When Evaluating Bites:

- Did the dog have the option to retreat instead?
- Did the dog give a warning prior to biting that was readable by the average person (growling, teeth baring, etc.)?
- Did the dog bite the closest part of the body to them?

Management:

- How manageable is the behavior?
- What is the risk if management fails?

Can the animal be provided the Five Domains in the shelter, with a New Hope Partner, or in a home setting? (if the answer is no for all of these situations, the animal is ineligible for placement)

- Nutrition – Can they safely be provided with food and water? Are they eating/drinking in the shelter?
- Environment – Are they able to be housed inside and provided with basic comforts?
- Health – Can medical care be provided if needed?
- Behavioral Interactions – Can they safely participate in enrichment? Can they safely be provided with opportunities to play, socialize and explore?
- Mental State – Are they exhibiting kennel stress? Living in high levels of fear without any relief? Is there an environment where they will be without anxiety, pain, or distress?

Our definition of an average adopter is someone who expects to:

- Be able to freely handle/touch their pet without fear of being bitten or scratched (muzzled for grooming or veterinary services are acceptable exceptions)
- Be able to manage their pet's feeding and/or medication schedule around an average (8-10hr) workday
- Be able to leave their home for an average workday without fear of destruction of property
- Be able to welcome guests into their home without fear of injury or feeling threatened by the pet
- Be able to board or engage a pet sitter in order to be away from home for travel/vacation
- Be able to safely house their dog with a resident dog and/or cat
- Be able to easily manage interactions with other dogs or people while out on a walk

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If considering transfer eligibility to a New Hope Partner:

- What is a partner able to provide that we are not?
- Are we passing off a safety risk?
- How will a partner's environment better serve this animal?
- Can a partner better find a suited adopter for this animal?

When a lack of information is present the benefit of the doubt is given to the dog.