

ASPCA Medical Adoptability Guidelines

All animals, regardless of level, are expected to have a good quality of life in order to be eligible for placement.

Green: Animals that appear outwardly healthy or who have minor physical conditions that require limited or no treatment.

Candidates for placement unless significant behavioral concerns are present

Yellow: Animals with physical conditions that require acute treatment and monitoring; are well-controlled but require chronic treatment and monitoring; and/or that may impact the animal's well-being and require additional treatment in the future.

Orange: Animals with significant medical conditions that require extensive or otherwise more involved acute care or cases with significant ongoing chronic medical needs in the form of treatment, monitoring, and/or follow-up veterinary care.

Eligible for treatment and placement with more significant behavior concerns that fall within the behavior guidelines

Red: Animals with major medical conditions that are an immediate threat to the animal's well-being and quality of life, that have a poor prognosis, and/or pose a serious threat to the health or safety of other animals or people.

Not typically candidates for placement, with or without behavioral concerns

ASPCA Medical Adoptability Guidelines: Example Conditions

Green: Mild dental tartar, obesity, corneal scarring.

Yellow: URI/CIRDC, well controlled skin allergies, hypothyroidism in dogs, some early/mild heart conditions, open wounds/traumatic injuries, mild orthopedic disease, ringworm, localized (not extensively destructive) neoplasia

Orange: Heartworm, chronic gastroenteritis/inflammatory bowel disease, moderate/severe orthopedic disease, subclinical FeLV, Brucellosis, Babesia infection, mild to moderate chronic organ failure (eg kidney, liver), diabetes mellitus

Red: Metastatic or systemic neoplasia and/or extensive focal neoplasia that interferes with basic body functions, clinical FeLV, severe uncontrollable pain