

Placement Policy



Animal
Care Centers
of NYC

Placement Decisions

Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) is committed to finding homes for and decreasing euthanasia of animals relinquished to its care in New York City. ACC strives to find good homes for animals through shelter adoptions and off-site and mobile events as well as through placement with approved rescue groups and shelters known as New Hope partners. Each animal arriving at the shelter is assessed individually to determine his or her placement options. Placement decisions take into account the animal's health and behavior, comments from staff and volunteers and, when available, information from the previous owner. ACC will hold animals as long as possible based on placement options, the shelter population and incoming animals, and the individual animal's health, behavior and welfare.

The following outcomes are possible for animals handled by ACC:

- Reunited with owner
- Available for adoption, with or without restrictions
- Foster care
- Transferred to New Hope Partner
- Euthanized

Reunited to owner: Healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable, treatable-manageable, and unhealthy-untreatable animals (as described later in this document) all may be reunited with their owner. When a possible owner is identified for an animal within the ACC system, all reasonable attempts will be made to reunite the pet with his/her previous owner with the following limitations:

- Potential owners must show proof of ownership to satisfy ACC's criteria.
- All criteria for reunification must be met, including spay/neuter surgery, licensing (for dogs), and rabies vaccination in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.
- Circumstances surrounding the animal's arrival at ACC and his or her physical health must be such that there is not a significant concern related to the reunification, such as a cruelty or neglect situation.

Adoption: Animals will be made available for adoption by ACC. Certain restrictions may be imposed based on the health and behavior status of a particular animal, but any animal placed in the adoption program will be in such condition that his or her

placement is not deemed to cause a significant risk to the animal's welfare and is not a risk to public health and safety. Healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable, and treatable-manageable animals may be made available for adoption by ACC.

The majority of animals handled by ACC and made available for adoption will be housed in one of the care centers' adoption rooms. Potential adopters are encouraged to come to a Care Center and can also view photographs of animals available for adoption at www.nycacc.org, or on our app. Such animals are available for adoption by members of the public that are the best match for placing the animal in a suitable home. Animals made available for adoption may subsequently become unavailable for adoption if their medical or behavioral status changes.

Foster care: Animals that are underage or that require treatment for physical and/or behavioral health conditions may be placed under the care of an approved foster volunteer through ACC's foster program or with a New Hope partner approved to foster. Healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable, and treatable-manageable animals may be placed in foster care by ACC. Animals are eligible only if ACC or the New Hope partner can reasonably provide the needed treatment for the animal's condition and placement is made in accordance with policies regarding the foster program. It is expected that these animals will later be adopted through the shelter, at a media or off-site event, or placed with a New Hope partner. However, selection for foster care is not a guarantee of placement and animals cared for through the foster program may have a different placement option determined after further evaluations of their health and behavior.

Foster care volunteers provide homes, care and a nurturing environment to potentially adoptable animals. ACC remains committed to proactively recruiting additional foster homes. For more information about becoming a foster parent through ACC's volunteer program, please visit <http://www.nycacc.org/howtovolunteer.html> for more information and to sign up for an orientation session.

New Hope transfer: The New Hope program is ACC's proactive community initiative aimed at finding homes for animals that come into its care. To accomplish this, ACC establishes and cultivates mutually beneficial and productive relationships with cat, dog and exotic animal community non-profit placement organizations that assist and partner with ACC in placing animals. ACC proactively communicates information regarding animals in need of placement through New Hope. New Hope partners take ownership of ACC animals and care for them in shelters, foster homes, boarding facilities, and/or their own private facilities prior to placing them in permanent homes through their own adoption processes.

Animals that are candidates for public adoption through ACC may also be eligible for New Hope placement in accordance with New Hope program guidelines at the completion of the legal holding period and if there has been no interest by public adopters. Certain animals not otherwise on hold may remain available for adoption

through ACC and not be released to New Hope for up to 24 hours following the completion of their legal hold. If such an animal is not adopted from an ACC shelter within 24 hours he or she may then be released to a New Hope partner if one has expressed interest. In addition to the aforementioned criteria, animals with a physical and/or behavioral condition that requires additional intervention (e.g. medical treatment, training, behavior modification) in order to make that animal suitable for placement in a permanent home may be made available for placement with approved New Hope partners only. Decisions on New Hope placement are determined on the basis of individual animal and shelter needs. Healthy, treatable-rehabilitatable, treatable-manageable, and unhealthy-untreatable animals all may be transferred to a New Hope partner. However, no animal that is deemed to be a significant threat to the health and/or safety of other animals or people will be made available for placement with a New Hope partner.

For more information about becoming a New Hope partner with ACC, please visit <http://www.nycacc.org/newhope.htm> or email newhopeprogram@nycacc.org to receive additional information on the program and application process.

Euthanasia: Euthanasia is not a decision we take lightly, but one we must make nonetheless. We sincerely wish that every animal that comes to us could be adopted to a caring, responsible home. We evaluate each animal's health and behavior on an individual basis. We use our experience and protocols to evaluate an animal's needs and balance those needs with the greater good of the animal population in our care. Wherever possible, proactive placement with New Hope partners will be sought for those animals with medical or behavioral conditions beyond ACC's ability to treat or place. As a last resort, animals may be identified for humane euthanasia when other proactive efforts at placement have been unsuccessful.

After ACC has explored adoption, foster, and placement with New Hope partners animals may be humanely euthanized with an injection of sodium pentobarbital in accordance with ACC's policy for any of the following reasons:

- Medical or surgical conditions that require treatment beyond ACC's or New Hope partner's resources
- Behavioral conditions that require modification or management beyond ACC's or New Hope partners' resources
- Animals adopted and returned with documented medical or behavioral conditions beyond ACC's ability to manage
- Underage kittens and puppies, particularly those less than four (4) weeks of age without a queen or dam when New Hope or foster cannot be found

- Animals that are deemed a safety risk to humans or other animals, based on history and/or observation
- Animals afflicted with an infectious disease for which resources are not available for treatment and/or adequate facilities for isolation and containment of disease
- Owner request due to legitimate health or/and behavior concerns in accordance with ACC's euthanasia policy (Note: owner request euthanasia cases still require documentation, including scanning for microchip, photograph, and brief medical summary of the animal's condition)
- Shelter capacity to house, care for, and meet the physical and behavioral needs of the animal

Asilomar and Placement

The goal of ACC is to re-home as many animals entering our organization as possible using all available resources. ACC uses a nationally accepted mechanism to capture and report statistics called the Asilomar Accords. This system gives us the ability to categorize animals in the shelter to help us make informed decisions as we focus energies in placing healthy and treatable animals in our care. When resources allow and the prognosis is good, the shelter may elect to provide care for those animals with treatable medical or surgical conditions. ACC does not use the term adoptable to describe animals as we consider all animals in our care as potentially adoptable if there is an available home or New Hope Placement. As such, we use the classifications outlined in the Asilomar Accords to categorize the animals for statistical purposes.

Each animal cared for by ACC is assigned an Asilomar Accord status in order to facilitate clear, consistent sharing of sheltering data and statistics and to strengthen community partnerships and efforts aimed at saving as many healthy and treatable animals as possible. As new information becomes available or an animal's medical or behavioral condition changes, the Asilomar status will be updated to reflect the animal's overall condition at that time. The final Asilomar status is assigned at the time of outcome for the animal.

The following definitions are used by ACC when assigning an Asilomar Accords status:

- Healthy animals are those who do not require medical, behavioral, or foster care to make them ready for adoption. This includes all dogs and cats who are eight weeks of age or older and do not have any sign of disease, injury, or behavior

that could pose a health or safety risk or otherwise make the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet.

- Treatable-rehabilitatable animals are those who are likely to become healthy if provided with treatment for their condition compatible with that typically provided in the community.
- Treatable-manageable animals are those who are not likely to become healthy but could have a good quality of life if provided with treatment for their condition comparable with that typically provided in the community, provided the animal does not pose a risk to the health or safety of other animals or people.
- Unhealthy-untreatable animals are those who either have a behavioral or temperamental characteristic that poses a health or safety risk or otherwise makes the animal unsuitable for placement as a pet, or are suffering from a disease, injury, or congenital condition that adversely affects the animal's health and will not become healthy or treatable even with a level of care typically provided in the community.