

ANIMAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR HOME VISITS



This form allows staff to rate the animal welfare conditions of a case, advise on risk reducing measures, and assess the pet owner’s willingness to work towards implementing the recommended solutions.

The assessment does not replace the staff member’s clinical judgment based on skillset and past casework experience, and it is not meant to make final decisions on the outcome of a case. The assessment is meant to lend assistance in the overall case management process, and to collect data to aid in future decision making around casework selection and strategy, resource allocation, and the likelihood of a case’s success.

FACTOR LEVELS	
A	High Urgency, Red
B	Medium Urgency, Green
C	Low Urgency, Blue

CONCERN SCALE

Circle which option applies and provide notes where needed. *If a Moderate or Serious Concern is noted for any of the below factors, the Case Lead should be prioritizing services to mitigate the concern for that case.*



ANIMAL					NOTES
1A: Food	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	
2A: Water	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	
3A: Injury/Pain	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	
4A: Illness/Disease	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	
5A: Body Condition	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	
6B: Haircoat/Nails	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	
7C: Resting Place	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	
8C: Enrichment	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	
9C: Behavior	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	
10B: Environmental Hazards	No Concerns	Mild Concerns	Moderate Concerns	Serious Concerns	

FACTOR	Definition by Concern Level (No, Mild, Moderate, Serious)
1A: Food *Freedom from hunger and thirst*	NO CONCERNS: - Food is accessible and an adequate quantity for pet's size and/or # of pets in household. If food is not out in a bowl, it is confirmed that sufficient and appropriate pet food is in the household. - Bowls are clean and free of debris, insects, etc. MILD CONCERNS: - Food is accessible but is not the ideal quantity or quality (e.g., relying more heavily on human food; smaller portions but not life-threatening). - Food bowls may be slightly dirty or have insects present. MODERATE CONCERNS: - Food is not consistently accessible and is not the ideal quantity or quality (e.g., relying more heavily on human food; smaller portions). - Food bowls may be dirty and may have insects present. SERIOUS CONCERNS: - Food is not accessible (e.g., no food in household, dog is tethered and cannot access food), or food is not appropriate (e.g., quantity is not adequate, feeding only human food). - Pets are competing over resources, leading to fights, high stress and/or possible malnutrition. - Food bowls are dirty and may have insects present.
2A: Water *Freedom from hunger and thirst*	NO CONCERNS: - Water is accessible and an adequate quantity for pet's size and/or # pets in household. - Water in bowl is kept clean and is free of debris, insects, etc. MILD CONCERNS: - Water is accessible and an adequate quantity. - Water in bowl is not clean (e.g., water hasn't been changed in a few days, but water is still somewhat clear and not filled with debris). MODERATE CONCERNS: - Water is accessible, but may not be an adequate quantity. - Water in bowl may not be clean (e.g., water is cloudy and/or has debris or dirt in it). SERIOUS CONCERNS: - Water is not accessible or available, or quantity is not adequate (e.g., bowls are empty, dog is tethered and unable to reach the water). - Pets are competing over water resources because there is not enough available (if at all). - Water in bowl is dirty.

FACTOR	Definition by Concern Level (No, Mild, Moderate, Serious)
3A: Injury/Pain <i>*Freedom from pain, injury, or disease*</i>	NO CONCERNS: - Pet displays no visible pain or discomfort caused by an injury or other condition, such as a wound, limping, etc. MILD CONCERNS: - Pet may have an injury or condition that does not appear to cause pain or discomfort (e.g., mild arthritis that does not impact the pet's mobility or ability to express normal behaviors like eliminating and playing). - Immediate medical attention is not needed, if at all (e.g., the ASPCA does not provide treatment or funding for chronic conditions). MODERATE CONCERNS: - Pet may have an injury or condition that is potentially causing pain (e.g., pet is limping from possible injury or condition but able to bear weight and walk or has a small wound such as a hot spot that needs treatment but is not urgent.) - Medical attention is needed within 1-2 weeks. SERIOUS CONCERNS: - Pet may have an injury or painful condition that requires immediate medical attention (e.g., pet is immobile, pet has a significant open or infected wound with discharge, pet was hit by a car, etc.) - Medical attention is needed same-day or within 1-2 days.
4A: Illness/Disease <i>*Freedom from pain, injury, or disease*</i>	NO CONCERNS: - Pet appears bright, alert, and healthy. - Pet displays no visible signs of illness – sneezing, coughing, discharge, itching, consistent diarrhea as reported by owner, etc. MILD CONCERNS: - Pet appears healthy. - Pet has never been vaccinated and/or is not up to date on core vaccines. - There may be some minor concern present (e.g., a few cats in the home are scratching themselves from possible fleas or a few cats are sneezing but there is no visible ocular/nasal discharge). - Immediate medical attention is not needed, if at all (e.g., logistical challenges may prevent the administration of medical care, such as a household with a large population of animals with many who are not social). MODERATE CONCERNS: - Pet exhibits signs of illness (e.g., coughing, frequent sneezing, excessive scratching/itching ears or skin, ocular/nasal discharge) but is not in extreme distress. - Medical attention is needed within 1-2 weeks. This timeline may need to be extended depending on several factors (e.g., the population number, the client's schedule, etc.) SERIOUS CONCERNS: - Pet exhibits severe signs of illness that is impacting their quality of life in a significant way (e.g., lethargy, respiratory distress, not eating, not eliminating, frequent vomiting, etc.) - Immediate medical attention is needed same-day or within 1-2 days.

FACTOR	Definition by Concern Level (No, Mild, Moderate, Serious)
5A: Body Condition *Freedom from hunger and thirst*	NO CONCERNS: - Pet is observed to be a healthy body weight. The pet is not too thin or too heavy. MILD CONCERNS: - One or more pets in the household is slightly underweight or overweight but is eating and drinking normally according to the owner (e.g., a senior pet is slightly underweight but not extremely skinny and is still eating/drinking). MODERATE CONCERNS: - One or more pets in the household is underweight or overweight and may not be eating or drinking normally according to the owner. - Medical attention may be needed within 1-2 weeks. The Case Lead should continue to check in with the client to determine the best next steps needed for care. SERIOUS CONCERNS: - One or more pets in the household is extremely underweight or overweight and having issues with eating and drinking according to the owner. - Immediate medical attention is needed same-day or within 1-2 days.
6B: Haircoat/Nails *Freedom from pain, injury, or disease*	NO CONCERNS: - Pet(s)' hair is well-kept, clean, and no odor present. - Nails do not interfere with the pet(s)' mobility, quality of life, or comfort. MILD CONCERNS: - Pet(s)' hair may be slightly overgrown and/or may have a mild odor. - Nails may be slightly long but do not interfere with mobility, quality of life, or comfort. MODERATE CONCERNS: - Pet(s)' hair is unkempt, some matting might be present, and may have an odor. - Nails are long and approaching overgrown status, and may soon impact mobility, quality of life, or comfort. - Grooming is needed within 1-2 weeks. SERIOUS CONCERNS: - The pet has significant matting and/or nails are overgrown. Coat has a strong odor. - Pet(s)' quality of life and ability to be comfortable is negatively impacted. - Grooming is needed same-day or within 1-2 days.

FACTOR	Definition by Concern Level (No, Mild, Moderate, Serious)
7C: Resting Place *Freedom from discomfort*	NO CONCERNS: • There is adequate resting space for pet(s) to retreat to that is free from stress and discomfort (e.g., no loud noises, comfortable temperature is maintained, no overcrowding with other animals/objects, ability to retreat from people if desired, etc.) • There are no signs of urine/feces in the household (none can be seen or smelled). MILD CONCERNS: • There is adequate resting space for pet(s) but there may be a larger number of animals in the household to potentially compete with. • There might be signs of urine/feces in the household, but not in the same room or area as the resting space. MODERATE CONCERNS: • There is limited access to a stress-free, relaxing environment for pet(s) to retreat to (e.g., due to number of animals in household, size of space, object clutter, etc.) • There might be signs of urine/feces in the household, but it is not overwhelming. SERIOUS CONCERNS: • The home is overcrowded or empty, with a large volume of animals and no area for them to rest comfortably and free from stress. • Pet(s) spends majority of time confined to crate or outdoors without appropriate shelter. • There is a strong presence of urine/feces in the household.
8C: Enrichment *Freedom from fear and distress; Freedom to express normal behavior*	NO CONCERNS: • Enrichment is present allowing pet(s) to practice natural behaviors (playing, sniffing, chewing, exploring, etc.) and owners provide other activities as well (e.g., dog walking, wand toys, etc.) • There is regular socialization with people and/or other animals. MILD CONCERNS: • Some enrichment/toys are present but could be improved but the quantity or quality could be improved. • There is limited social interaction with people and/or other animals. MODERATE CONCERNS: • There are little to no toys and/or enrichment items present, or activity provided for the pet (e.g., time outside). If the household has several pets, toys may be present but not adequately available to all pets (e.g., due guarding by 1 or more pets). • There is limited social interaction with people and/or other animals. SERIOUS CONCERNS: • There are no toys/enrichment items present and no opportunities for the pet(s) to be active, go outside, or express natural behaviors. • There is little to no social interaction with people and/or other animals.

FACTOR	Definition by Concern Level (No, Mild, Moderate, Serious)
9C: Behavior *Freedom from fear and distress; Freedom to express normal behavior*	NO CONCERNS: • Pet(s) have access to adequate enrichment and socialization, and display signs of comfort in their environment. • There are no observations and/or no reports from the owner of pet(s) displaying fearful/anxious behavior, aggressive behavior to people, or aggressive behavior to animals. MILD CONCERNS: • Pet(s) may display fearful/anxious or mildly aggressive behavior around new people visiting the home, but the pet owner reports it does not affect the pet's quality of life and the pet is comfortable with people they know. MODERATE CONCERNS: • Pet(s) exhibit signs of fearful/anxious behavior or aggression towards people or animals that impact their ability to integrate fully into the household. • Pet(s) shows aggression towards people in home. May have resulted in skin abrasions from scratching and/or biting, but no serious puncture wounds. • Pet(s) gets into fights with other animals in the home resulting in chronic stress and/or minor injury. SERIOUS CONCERNS: • Pet(s) exhibits extremely fearful/anxious behavior and is unable to fully function (e.g., spends all or majority of time in a crate, does not socialize with humans/animals, always hiding, etc.) • Pet(s) shows severe aggression towards people in the home. Has resulted in serious injury (e.g., puncture wounds from bite). • Pet(s) gets into fights with other animals in the home and may have resulted in severe injury. • Public safety is a concern given the pet(s)' aggression, either observed by CE or as reported by the owner.
10B: Environmental Hazards *Freedom from discomfort*	NO CONCERNS: • No clutter present in the home. • No odors present in the home. • Adequate access to running water, electricity, heat/AC, fresh air/sunlight. • No major structural damage or hazards in home. No infestations present. • Litter and litterboxes present. MILD CONCERNS: • Some clutter present. • Mild odor present. • Adequate access to running water, electricity, heat/AC, fresh air/sunlight. • No major structural damage or hazards in home. • No infestations present. • Litter and litterboxes present but may not be cleaned recently. CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE

FACTOR	Definition by Concern Level (No, Mild, Moderate, Serious)
CONT'D 10B: Environmental Hazards *Freedom from discomfort*	MODERATE CONCERNS: • Clutter is present in the home, impacting available space for humans and pets. • Odor is present. • Adequate access to running water, electricity, heat/AC. • Fresh air/sunlight is limited. • There may be some structural damage/hazards present (e.g., holes in kitchen cabinets, flooring is damaged). • Signs of insects present in home. • Litter and litter boxes are present but not maintained or not enough boxes for the number of cats in home. SERIOUS CONCERNS: • Object hoarding present. • Severe odors present. • No access to running water, electricity, heat/AC, or fresh air/sunlight. • Major structural damage to the home leading to unsafe conditions. • Other serious hazards are present such as broken glass, insecure fencing, etc. for outdoor dog situations. • Infestation(s) observed. • No litter and/or litter boxes present.