Iowa County Humane Society Animal Adoptability Policy—updated March 2014

**Animal Status Review Process**

- Petition for evaluation of an animal, signed by 3 people

**ICHS Board of Directors**
Assigns to reviewers within 72 hours

**Animal Welfare Reviewer**
**Animal Advocate Reviewer**
Within 7 days, Reviewers finish and refer information to the Board to act on animal care concern or to the Euthanasia Committee.

**ICHS Board of Directors**
Within 72 hours, Board affirms EC decision, overturns EC decision (requires stated reasons) or issues animal care directive. Majority vote.

**Euthanasia Committee**
Within 7 days, EC reviews and makes recommendation to Board with rationale. Majority vote.

**Our Goals Are To:**
- Get adoptable animals adopted!
- Focus on quality of life for animals
- Keep people & animals safe

- Any 3 people can request review of an animal’s status regarding health, behavior, or the care they are receiving.
- The Animal Welfare and Animal Advocate Reviewers review the animal’s records and verify that ICHS policies and procedures have been followed and that ICHS has done what it should for the animal within the resources available.
- The Euthanasia Committee is composed of 5 people who may include a veterinarian, shelter staff, animal behaviorists, volunteers, members at large, and a maximum of 1 Board member.
- This process places the decision for action on animal care and euthanasia in the hands of more than 1 person; involves the membership and local community.
- It helps to ensure that ICHS follows its own care guidelines for animals, and avoids warehousing animals in a poor quality of life.
- It sets timelines for required action.
- It gives every animal the benefit of the same evaluation.
When admitted to the shelter (and periodically thereafter) all animals receive:

- **Physical/medical exam**
- **Behavioral evaluation**

The animal is then classified into 1 of 4 groups:

- **Healthy**: No behavioral, temperament, or health concerns, >8 weeks of age, ready for adoption!
- **Treatable: Rehabilitatable**: Not currently healthy, likely to become healthy.
- **Treatable: Manageable**: Not currently healthy, unlikely to become healthy, but health or behavior issues are manageable, likely to enjoy a good quality of life.
- **Unhealthy & Untreatable**: Not likely to become healthy or treatable even with the best care ICHS can give. May be due to behavior or temperament, disease injury, or inherited condition, <8 weeks old (unless thriving with mother or in foster care).

Animals can change from one classification to another. Classification depends on responsiveness to treatment in a reasonable time frame.

Quality of Life is Key

What can be done for the animals is based on ICHS resources and contributions/fostering available.