French Reference Centre for Animal Welfare

Summary of abandonment factors with positive/negative impacts on the welfare of dogs and cats

STRAY ANIMALS

−

- No history
- Animals unfamiliar with humans
- Animals unused to confinement
- Injuries, illnesses, isolation, lack of care before arrival at shelter

- Sudden change, adaptation to new environment

- Quarantine

⚠ *Kittens, puppies, pregnant females*

ABUSED ANIMALS OFFICIALLY REMOVED

−

- Sudden change, adaptation to new environment

+

- Access to care, to an appropriate environment

⚠ *Kittens, puppies, pregnant females*

IDENTIFIED/UNIDENTIFIED ANIMALS DYING WHILE IN AUTHORITY/ORGANISATION'S CARE

−

- Pain, illness, wounds, wandering, isolated

- Sudden change, adaptation to new environment

⚠ *Kittens, puppies, pregnant females*

ANIMALS IN AUTHORITY/ORGANISATION'S CARE

POUND ▽ SHELTER

+

Access to care
Foster family
Good housing practices
Dogs in pairs
Siblings together
Adoption programme and monitoring
Behavioural difficulties monitored

−

Adaptation to life in kennels, cattery
Noises
Sterilisation
Life in a cage
Having to share accommodation or isolation
Communication of diseases
Unfamiliar humans

+/−

Duration, conditions and transfers between facilities vary

Stray, sick and young animals, pregnant females, classified dogs ⚠

−

RETURN AFTER FAILED ADOPTION

Further changes, animals that are hard to rehome (behavioural or health difficulties...)

ADOPTION ▷ OWNER

+

Adaptation, care > welfare

−

No adaptation, lack of welfare

⚠ *Stray animals, classified dogs*

ANIMALS LEFT IN FRONT OF A SHELTER

−

- No health/behavioural history
- Wounds, illnesses, isolation, lack of care before arrival at the shelter
- Unable to move

- Sudden change, adaptation to new environment

- Quarantine

⚠ *Kittens, puppies, pregnant females*

ANIMALS FORMALLY SURRENDERED WITH A DECLARATION OF ABANDONMENT

−

- Sudden change, adaptation to new environment

+

- Access to care, to an appropriate environment
- Known history
- No isolation
- No quarantine

⚠ *Kittens, puppies, pregnant females*

IDENTIFIED OR UNIDENTIFIED ANIMAL DEAD ON ARRIVAL

−

- Pain, illness, wounds, wandering, isolated

⚠ *Kittens, puppies, pregnant females*

LEGEND

− *Negative impact on animal welfare*

+ *Positive impact on animal welfare*

+/− *Positive or negative impact on animal welfare*

⚠ *Animals particularly 'at risk'*