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## Decision Tree

- **When keeping the dog in the home is appropriate**
  - When management is relatively easily accomplished, and doesn't need constant vigilance
  - When owners/guardians are committed to keeping up an appropriate training program
- **When re-homing is acceptable**
  - Dog
    - Is not actively dangerous
    - Would improve in another home
    - Environmental controls more appropriate
    - Experience level more appropriate
    - Potential appropriate home with no pets, or appropriate pets – children or no children
- **When euthanasia is appropriate**
  - Dog
    - Is actively dangerous (even if protracted work would help)
      - To people in household
      - To strangers
      - To other animals in household
    - Is obviously in mental or physical distress
  - When appropriate owners might be difficult or impossible to locate
- **Things to consider when making decisions to re-home or euthanize**
  - Extent of household and canine management needed to minimize or eliminate circumstances which lead to inappropriate behavior
  - Amount and type of changes owners have had to make to accommodate dog's behavior problems (ie walking at odd times of day, not having guests over, not being able to leave the home)
  - What kind of behavior modification techniques would be appropriate, and how much time and commitment it would take
  - Whether instinctive drift would be likely to occur (tendency of an organism to slip back into its "comfort zone")
  - Whether owners' commitment could extend beyond several months
  - Children at risk
  - Insurance risk/neighbor problems



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