

Quality of Life Scale: When is it time?

Instructions: use numbers 1-10 (10 being ideal) for each category

- ___ PAIN: Adequate pain control and breathing are of top concern. Trouble breathing outweighs all other concerns.
- Is your pet's pain being successfully managed?
 - Can your pet breathe properly?
 - Is supplemental oxygen necessary?
- ___ APPETITE:
- Is your pet eating enough nutritious food?
 - Does your pet need coaxing and hand-feeding?
- ___ HYDRATION:
- Is your pet dehydrated (skin slowly retracts after being pinched)?
 - Is your pet drinking more or less than usual?
 - Is your pet urinating more or less than normal?
- ___ HYGIENE:
- Can you keep your pet brushed, clean, and parasite free?
 - Are you able to keep your pet clean after soiling from urination/ defecation?
 - Can you provide soft bedding for your pet to prevent wounds or sores from forming?
- ___ HAPPINESS:
- Does your pet express joy or interest in things they typically enjoy?
 - Is your pet responsive to their surroundings (family, toys, etc)?
 - Is your pet depressed, lonely, anxious, bored, withdrawn, or afraid?
 - Can your pet's bed be moved closer to family activities to prevent isolation?
- ___ MOBILITY:
- Dogs: Can your dog get up to relieve themselves without help? If not, are you able to provide assistance adequately?
 - Cats: Can your cat use the litter box without help, or can you provide assistance?
 - Is your pet losing balance, stumbling, or having difficulty with basic movements?
- ___ "GOOD" DAYS:
- Are there more "bad days" where your dog seems to be "turned off" to life?
 - Do more days include things like vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, frustration, falling, seizures, confusion, etc?
 - Can your pet do at least 2 out of 3 things they enjoy without issues?
- ___ TOTAL
- SCORING:
- A score of greater than 35 represents acceptable quality of life and/or that hospice care is a viable option.
 - A score of less than 35 represents a questionable quality of life. End of life care and euthanasia should be discussed.
 - Note: When the number of bad days outnumbers the good days, the quality of life for your dog is declining. When a healthy human animal bond is no longer possible, the family must be made aware that the end is near.