

Quality-of-Life Scale



When evaluating the quality of life of your pet it can be very difficult and upsetting. This scale may help to ensure that yourself and your family are making the right decision for your beloved pet. You can complete this scale as often as needed.

Part 1 - Score each subsection on a scale of 0-2

0 = I agree with this statement, it describes my pet

1 = I see some changes in my pet

2 = I disagree with this statement; it does not describe my pet

Social Functions

___ The desire to be with the family has not changed

___ My pet still interacts normally with the family or other pets (no increased aggression or other changes)

Natural Functions

___ Appetite has stayed the same

___ Drinking has stayed the same

___ Normal urination habits

___ Normal bowel movements

___ Ability to walk has stayed the same

Mental Health

___ Enjoys normal activities i.e. Play activities

___ Dislikes haven't changed

___ No signs of stress or anxiety

___ No signs of confusion or not being interested

___ Nighttime activities is normal, no change seen

Physical Health

___ No changes in breathing or panting patterns

___ No signs of pain or discomfort (excessive panting, pacing, and whining)

___ Does not pace around the house

___ Overall condition has not changed recently

Total: _____

Family's Concerns



Part two - Score each item on a scale of 0-2

0 = I am not concerned at this time

1 = There is some concern

2 = I am concerned about this

I am concerned about this following things

- My pet is suffering
- My desire to perform nursing care for my pet
- My ability to perform nursing care for my pet
- Not knowing the right time to put him/her to sleep
- Coping with the loss of my pet
- Concern for my other animals in my household
- Concern for other members of the family i.e. children

Total: _____

Pets quality of life results

0-8 = Quality of life is most likely adequate. No medical intervention required yet, but guidance from your veterinarian may help identification of signs to look for in the future.

9-16 = Quality of life is questionable and medical intervention is suggested. Your pet will benefit from guidance to evaluate his or her progress.

17-30 = Quality of life is a concern. Changes will likely become more progressive and more severe. Veterinary guidance will help to explain and help you better understand, this end stage. This will help you make a more informed decision of whether to continue with palliative care or elect for putting him/her to sleep.

Family Concern results

0-4 = Your concerns are minimal. Now is the time to begin discussing your concerns with your veterinarian.

5-9 = Your concerns are increasing. Education about your pet's condition can help prepare you for palliative care. Please discuss this with your veterinarian.

10-14 = Your concerns are valid, now is the time to have a support system around you. Your veterinarian will help guide you with any questions.

Below are some open-ended questions that can help in assisting your family.

1. Have you ever been through the loss of a pet before? If so, what was your experience? Good or bad and why?
2. What is the ideal situation you wish for your pet's end of life experience? E.g., at home, in clinic
3. Is there anything special you would like to do with your pet before the time comes?
e.g., Roadtrip, go to the beach, eat an ice cream.

Suggestions on using the quality-of-life scale.

Complete the scale at different times of the day, request multiple members of the family to complete the scale, take photos of your pet to help you remember their physical appearance.

If you would like to discuss your results with one of the team members please do not hesitate to call or email us.

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