



Overall Quality-of-Life Scale

When evaluating the quality of life of your pet, it's important to recognize the human-animal bond. In doing so, we take into consideration the personalized information of the patient and their family to reach an educated and informed decision that supports your pet's medical condition as well as satisfies your personal wishes and expectations.

Page 1 of this worksheet evaluates an overall quality of life score for your pet, while page 2 evaluates the concerns your family might have about the situation as a whole. Use this worksheet to help guide your decision making and as a starting point for discussing your concerns with your veterinarian.

SCORE EACH SUBSECTION ON A SCALE OF 2 - 0

2 = Statement describes my pet well.
1 = Some changes in my pet have been seen.
0 = Statement does not describe my pet.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

- Desire to be with family and other pets has remained the same.
- Interacts normally with family and other pets, no significant changes in behavior.

BODILY HEALTH

- No changes in breathing or panting.
- No obvious signs of pain expressed.
- Does not pace around the house.
- Overall body condition has not changed.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Enjoys play activities.
- Dislikes the same things.
- No obvious signs of stress or anxiety.
- Does not appear confused or apathetic.
- Nighttime activity remains normal.

NATURAL FUNCTIONS

- Appetite remains consistent.
- Drinking has remained consistent.
- Normal urination habits.
- Normal bowel movement habits.
- Mobility has remained consistent.

RESULTS

- Total Score (added from each section)
- 24-32: Quality of life appears adequate at this time. No medical intervention necessary, however guidance from your veterinarian may help you know what signs to look for in the future.
- 16-23: Quality of life is questionable and medical intervention may be deemed necessary. Your pet will benefit from veterinary guidance to evaluate the disease processes they are experiencing.
- 0-15: Quality of life is concerning. Changes in mental and bodily health are likely to become more progressive and severe in the near future. Veterinary guidance can help you understand the final stages of your pet's disease process in order to make an informed decision for continuing hospice care or providing a peaceful euthanasia for your pet.



Northwest
Mobile Vet

Quality-of-Life Family Concerns

**SCORE EACH ITEM
ON A SCALE OF 2 - 0**

2 = I am concerned about this.

1 = I have some concerns at this time.

0 = I am not concerned at this time.

I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet suffering. | <input type="checkbox"/> Desire to perform nursing care for pet. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet passing away alone. | <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to perform nursing care for pet. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not knowing the right time to euthanize. | <input type="checkbox"/> Coping with pet loss. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concern for other household animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Concern for other family members. |

RESULTS

Total Score (added from each section)

- 0-4: Concerns are minimal currently. You either accept the inevitable loss of your pet and understand what's next, or you haven't given it much thought. If you haven't started considering what lies ahead, now is a good time to begin evaluating your own concerns and limitations.
- 5-9: Your concerns are building. Now is the best time to educate yourself regarding your pet's condition to prepare yourself for the emotional changes to come.
- 10-16: The time to prepare yourself and build a support system is now. Veterinary guidance can help you prepare for the medical changes in your pet while counselors and other health professionals can begin helping you with anticipatory grief.

DISCUSSION

Listed below are a few open-ended questions that may assist gauging your family's time, emotional, and potential financial budgets:

1. Have you or your family members experienced the loss of a pet before? If so, what was your experience with the process? Consider why it was a good or undesirable situation.
2. What do you hope the life expectancy of your pet will be? Does that differ from what you think it actually will be?
3. What is the ideal situation you wish for your pet's end of life experience?
4. Have you given any thought into the after care for your pet? Examples include cremation, return of ashes, home burial, and others.

Suggestions for using this scale:

1. Complete the scale at different times of the day and note fluctuations in well-being during.
2. Ask multiple members of your family to complete the scale and compare observations.
3. Take photos of your pet periodically for comparison of their physical appearance.