

Quality of Life Assessment

We understand evaluating your pet's quality of life may be difficult to scale. We have created this assessment to help with your decision-making. The end-of-life decision is ultimately yours to make. This assessment is just a tool to assist you in your process.

<p>Pain. What is my pet's daily pain level?</p>	<p>1. No pain. My pet is exhibiting normal movement and activity.</p>	<p>2. Mild pain. My pet is exhibiting slightly subdued behavior and decreased activity and mobility.</p>	<p>3. Moderate pain. My pet is reluctant to move and has issue with steps or jumping. He/ She is noticeably less active and showing withdrawn behavior.</p>	<p>4. Severe pain. My pet is exhibiting signs on restlessness, increased vocalization, and drastic decrease in activity. Pet requires medical management.</p>	<p>5. Extreme pain. My pet is unable to get comfortable, may become combative, constant vocalization (crying, whimpering), cannot be medically managed.</p>
<p>Appetite. How is my pet's daily appetite?</p>	<p>1. Normal appetite. My pet eats every meal and treats readily and enthusiastically.</p>	<p>2. Slightly reduced appetite. My pet is interested in food, but has decreased enthusiasm or will leave some food behind.</p>	<p>3. Moderately reduced appetite. My pet is reluctant to eat and often needs encouragement, only eating half or less of his/her normal food amount.</p>	<p>4. Severely reduced appetite. My pet will eat very little. Often refuses meals and treats, needing lots of coaxing. Pet requires medical management.</p>	<p>5. Completely inappetent. My pet will not eat at all. My pet refuses all treats. He/she may also exhibit signs of nausea or vomiting. All of which cannot be medically managed.</p>
<p>Hydration. Is my pet getting appropriate hydration?</p>	<p>1. Appropriately hydrated. My pet drinks an appropriate amount of water. His/Her gums are moist and pink, and skin tent quickly returns to normal position after gently pinched. Eyes are bright and clear.</p>	<p>2. Mildly dehydrated (5-7%) My pet has slightly decreased water intake. His/Her gums are slightly tacky and skin tent returns to normal slightly slower (1-2 seconds). Eyes appear normal.</p>	<p>3. Moderately dehydrated (8-10%) My pet is reluctant to drink water. His/Her gums are sticky to dry and skin tent returns to normal noticeably slower than normal (2-4 seconds). Eyes appear sunken.</p>	<p>4. Severely dehydrated (10-12%) My pet requires my assistance and medical management for water intake. His/Her gums are dry. Skin tent does not return to normal position. (4+ seconds). Eyes appear sunken and dull.</p>	<p>5. Critically dehydrated (12%+) My pet is not receiving sustainable hydration despite mine and medical intervention. His/Her gums are extremely dry. Skin tent remains tented. Eyes are severely sunken and dull.</p>

<p>Eliminations. Is my pet is able to have normal urinations and bowel movements on his/her own?</p>	<p>1.Normal. My pet is able to have normal and regular urinations and formed bowel movements on his/her own.</p>	<p>2. Mildly Irregular. My pet has occasional irregular bowel movements and/or urinations, but they do not cause a disruption for our daily routine.</p>	<p>3. Moderately Irregular. My pet is often having irregular bowel movements and/or urination. It is causing distress/pain for my pet and myself, but is able to be managed.</p>	<p>4. Significantly Irregular. My pet is having consistent irregular urinations and/ or bowel movements that are causing him/her distress or poor hygiene, it is not manageable and causes a disruption in our daily routine.</p>	<p>5. Unable to Eliminate. Emergency My pet is unable to have a bowel movement and/or urinations. This is causing severe distress and pain. It cannot be medically managed.</p>
<p>Hygiene. Is my pet is able to maintain his/her hygiene appropriately?</p>	<p>1.Excellent hygiene. My pet is successfully self- grooming. His/Her skin and coat are well maintained, eyes are clear and bright.</p>	<p>2. Good Hygiene. My pet does self-groom, but may have some matting, dry skin, eye stain, ear debris, faint odor.</p>	<p>3. Moderate Hygiene. My pet needs my assistance maintaining hygiene. Eyes matting, fecal matting, obvious odor.</p>	<p>4. Poor Hygiene. My pet is experiencing significant discomfort due to poor hygiene. Matting is causing lesions, eyes are matted/squinting, fecal/ urine scald, strong odor</p>	<p>5. Very Poor Hygiene. My pet and I are unable to keep up with his/her hygienic needs. Wounds may be causing infection, painful to handle, over bearing odor.</p>
<p>Happiness. My pet enjoys experiences joy daily.</p>	<p>1.Very Happy. My pet initiates playing with toys, people, and other dogs. He/She is enthusiastic about food and activities.</p>	<p>2. Happy. My pet enjoys playing with toys, people and other dogs when the occasion presents itself. He/She is excited about food and activity.</p>	<p>3. Neutral. My pet appears indifferent about play time, toys, people, other dogs. He/She is content to spend time by themselves and does not initiate interactions. They may eat food or treats if brought to them.</p>	<p>4. Unhappy. My pet appears tense and avoids activity, people, other dogs at all possible. He/She may appear lethargic or withdrawn and does not want to eat.</p>	<p>5. Depressed. My pet is tense during interactions. He/She does not want to play and can be combative if initiated. He/She is lethargic, remains withdrawn at all times, and has no interest in food.</p>
<p>You. You matter, too.</p>	<p>1.Very Happy. I am pleased with my pet's current quality of life and enjoy all of our time together.</p>	<p>2. Happy. I am happy to give my pet the extra TLC he/she requires to live happily and comfortably.</p>	<p>3. Fair. My pet's special needs are beginning to take a toll on me mentally, physically, and/or financially, but I am willing to continue care.</p>	<p>4. Negative. My pet's special needs are becoming stressful for me mentally, physically, and/or financially.</p>	<p>5. Depressed. My pet's care is negatively impacting me mentally, physically, and/or financially as a daily occurrence.</p>

Please total your answers and refer to the score sheet on the next page.

Quality of life Assessment Score

YOUR PETS SCORE: _____

Good (7-17)	Fair (18-27)	Poor (28-35)
Based on your assessment, your pet still has a good quality of life. While changes may be ahead, both you and your pet are able to spend adequate quality time together.	Based on your assessment, your pet is beginning to decline in his/her daily quality of life. It may be time to discuss diagnostics and medical management options with your veterinarian that are appropriate for your situation.	Based on your assessment, your pet is experiencing a poor quality of life. It may be time to discuss hospice care vs. end-of-life decisions with your veterinarian.

We understand that this is a difficult conversation to have that may lead to difficult decisions to make. Our team is here for any questions or concerns you have going forward. We strive to make this as peaceful as possible for you and your loving pet.