

Quality of Life Scale

Rate each category from 0-10, with 10 being the worst.

Score:	Criterion
_____	HURT- Adequate pain control, including breathing ability, is first and foremost on the scale. Is the pet's pain successfully managed? Is Oxygen necessary?
_____	HUNGER – Is the pet eating enough? Does hand feeding help? Does the patient require a feeding tube? Is the pet interested in food?
_____	HYDRATION – Is the patient dehydrated? For patients not drinking enough, use subcutaneous fluids once or twice daily to supplement fluid intake.
_____	HYGIENE – The patient should be kept brushed and cleaned, particularly after elimination, avoid pressure sores and keep all wounds clean.
_____	HAPPINESS – Does the pet express joy and interest? Is he responsive to things around him (family, toys, etc.)? Is the pet depressed, lonely, anxious, bored or afraid? Can the pet's bed be close to the family activities and not be isolated?
_____	MOBILITY – Can the patient get up without assistance? Does the pet need human or mechanical help (e.g. a cart)? Does he feel like going for a walk? Is he having seizures or stumbling? (Some caregivers feel euthanasia is preferable to amputation, yet an animal who has limited mobility but still alert and responsive can have a good quality of life as long as his caregivers are committed to helping him.)
_____	MORE GOOD DAYS THAN BAD – When bad days outnumber good days, quality of life might be too compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, the caregiver must be made aware the end is near. The decision needs to be made if the pet is suffering. If death comes peacefully and painlessly, that is okay.

A score of >35 indicates that hospice care can continue.