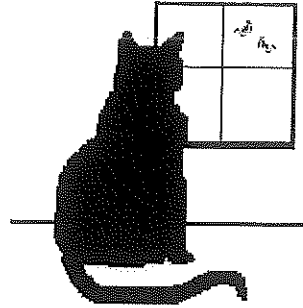


QUALITY OF LIFE SCALE*



Pet caregivers can use this Quality of Life Scale to determine the success of pet hospice care. Using a scale of 1 (poor) to 10 (best), patients can be scored.

HURT

Adequate pain control, including breathing ability, is the first and foremost on the scale. Is the pet's pain successfully managed? Is oxygen necessary?

SCORE

HUNGER

Is the pet eating enough? Does hand feeding help? Does the patient require a feeding tube?

SCORE

HYDRATION

Is the patient hydrated? For patients not drinking enough, use subcutaneous fluids once or twice daily to supplement fluid intake.

SCORE

HYGIENE

The patient should be kept brushed and cleaned, particularly after elimination. Avoid pressure sores and keep all wounds clean.

SCORE

HAPPINESS

Does the pet express joy and interest? Is he/she responsive to things around him/her (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?

SCORE

MOBILITY

Can the patient get up without assistance? Does the pet need human or mechanical help (e.g. a cart)? Does he/she feel like going for a walk? Is he/she having seizures or stumbling? (Some caregivers feel euthanasia is preferable to amputation, but an animal who has limited mobility but is still alert and responsive can have good quality of life as long as his/her caregivers are committed to helping him/her.)

SCORE

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 that the end is near. The decision needs to be made if the pet is suffering. If death comes peacefully and painlessly, that is OK.

SCORE

0

35

70

UNACCEPTABLE

ACCEPTABLE

TOTAL SCORE

*Adapted by Villalobos, A.E., Quality of Life Scale Helps Make Final Call, Veterinary Practice News, Sept. 2004; for Canine and Feline Geriatric Oncology Honoring the Human-Animal Bond, by Blackwell Publishing, Table 10.1, released 2006.