



Our Last Chapter

Quality of Life Scale

Using a scale of 0 (unacceptable) to 10 (excellent), rate your pet in these areas.

Hurt

Is the pet in pain, including distress from difficulty in breathing?
Can the pet's pain be successfully managed?

Hunger

Is the pet eating enough?
Does hand-feeding help?

Hydration

Is the pet dehydrated?
Are subcutaneous fluids once or twice daily enough to resolve the problem?

Hygiene

Can the pet be kept clean, particularly after elimination?
Does the pet have pressure sores?

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?
If needed, can the pet's bed be moved near family activities to minimize isolation?

Mobility

Can the pet get up without assistance?
Does the pet need human or mechanical help (ie: a harness or cart)?
Does he feel like going for a walk?
Is he having seizures or stumbling?

Note: An animal with limited mobility may still be alert and responsive and can have a good quality of life as long as the family is committed to quality care.

More Good Days than Bad

When bad days outnumber good days, the pet's suffering is appreciable, and quality of life might be too compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, the caregiver must consider quality of life.

A total of > 35 points is an objectively acceptable quality of life for pets.