

Quality of Life Scale

When evaluating the quality of life of your pet, personalized patient and family information is important when reaching an educated, informed, and supported choice that fits not only your pet's medical condition, but also your wishes and expectations. In short, quality of life applies not only to the pet, it also applies to you!

**SCORE EACH SUBSECTION
ON A SCALE OF 0-2:**

0 = agree with statement (describes my pet)
1 = some changes seen
2 = disagree with statement (does not describe my pet)

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

- _____ Desire to be with the family has not changed
- _____ Interacts normally with family or other pets (i.e., no increased aggression or other changes)

MENTAL HEALTH

- _____ Enjoys normal play activities
- _____ Still dislikes the same thing (i.e., still hates the mailman = 0, or doesn't bark at the mailman anymore = 2)
- _____ No outward signs of stress or anxiety
- _____ Does not seem confused or apathetic
- _____ Nighttime activity is normal, no changes seen

HEALTH

- _____ No changes in breathing or panting patterns
- _____ No outward signs of pain (excessive panting, pacing, and whining are most commonly seen)
- _____ No pacing around the house
- _____ My pet's overall condition has not changed recently

NATURAL FUNCTIONS

- _____ Appetite has stayed the same
- _____ Drinking has stayed the same
- _____ Normal urination habits
- _____ Normal bowel movement habits
- _____ Ability to ambulate (walk around) has stayed the same

RESULTS

_____ Total score added from each section

- 0-8: Quality of life is most likely adequate. No medical intervention required yet, but guidance from your veterinarian may help you identify signs to look for in the future.
- 9-16: Quality of life is questionable and medical intervention is suggested. Your pet would certainly benefit from veterinary oversight and guidance to evaluate the disease process he/she is experiencing.
- 17-32: Quality of life is a definite concern. Changes will likely become more progressive and more severe in the near future. Veterinary guidance will help you better understand the end stages of your pet's disease process in order to make a more informed decision of whether to continue hospice care or elect peaceful euthanasia.

