



### Quality of Life Scale

Caregivers can use this **Quality of Life Scale** to assess animals and guide decision making for Home Hospice care or even track timing of decline to help understand the right time for euthanasia. Use numbers from 0 to 10 (10 is ideal or normal) to score the patient's condition.

Score Range:	Your Pets Score Here	Criterion
0-10		<b>HURT</b> - Adequate pain control & breathing ability is top priority. Trouble breathing outweighs all concerns. Is pain being treated properly or not? Can the animal breathe properly? Is supplemental oxygen necessary?
0-10		<b>HUNGER</b> - Is the pet eating enough? Does hand feeding help? Does the patient need a feeding tube?
0-10		<b>HYDRATION</b> - Is the pet dehydrated? For patients not drinking enough water, use subcutaneous fluids daily or twice daily to supplement fluid intake.
0-10		<b>HYGIENE</b> - The pet should be brushed and cleaned, particularly after eliminations. Avoid pressure sores with soft bedding and keep all wounds clean.
0-10		<b>HAPPINESS</b> - Does the pet express joy and interest? Is the pet responsive to family, toys, etc.? Is the pet depressed, lonely, anxious, bored or afraid? Can the pet's bed be moved to be close to family activities?
0-10		<b>MOBILITY</b> - Can the pet get up without assistance? Does the pet need human or mechanical help? Is the dog willing/able to go out for short walks? Is the pet having seizures or stumbling? Some feel euthanasia is preferable to amputation. But a companion animal with 3 legs or limited mobility can be alert, happy and have a very good QoL only if the family is committed to helping their companion animal get around with: ramps, cart, harness, braces, rehab., etc.
0-10		<b>MORE GOOD DAYS THAN BAD</b> - When bad days outnumber good days, QoL may be too compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, the family must be made aware that the end is near. The decision for euthanasia needs to be made if the animal has pointless suffering. If death comes peacefully and painlessly at home, that is okay.
<b>*TOTAL</b>		<b>*A total over 35 points represents acceptable life quality to continue with care and or hospice.</b>