



Quality of Life Scale When is it Time?



Caregivers can use this Quality of Life Scale (QOL) to assess their beloved dog and guide decision making for Home Hospice care or even tracking timing of decline to help understand the right time for euthanasia.

Use numbers 0 to 10 (10 is ideal or normal) to score the pet's condition.

QOL Factor	Score 0-10 (10 is ideal)	Description
Hurt	<input type="text"/>	<p>Adequate pain control and breathing are of top concern. Trouble breathing outweighs all other concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is your dog's pain being successfully managed? Can your dog breathe properly? Is supplemental oxygen necessary?
Hunger	<input type="text"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is your dog eating enough nutritious food? Does coaxing and hand-feeding help? Are you able to maintain a feeding tube if needed?
Hydration	<input type="text"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is your dog dehydrated (skin slowly retracts after being pinched)? Are you willing to administer subcutaneous fluids if needed? Is your dog drinking more or less than normal? Does your dog urinate more or less than normal?
Hygiene	<input type="text"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you keep your dog brushed, clean, and parasite-free? Are you able to check your dog's body for soiling after elimination and keep them clean? Can you provide soft bedding and keep all wounds clean?
Happiness	<input type="text"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does your dog express joy and interest? Is your dog responsive to their surroundings (family, toys, etc.)? Is your dog depressed, lonely, anxious, bored, or afraid? Can your dog's bed be placed near the kitchen and moved near family activities so as not to be isolated?
Mobility	<input type="text"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can your dog get up and relieve itself without help or can you provide assistance? Is your dog losing balance, stumbling, or having seizures? <p>Note: Some caregivers feel that 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 with the proper pain management if the family is committed helping and providing quality care (ramps, carts, harness, rehab, etc.).</p>
"Bad" Days	<input type="text"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there more "bad" days, where your dog seems to be "turned off" to life? Do more days include things like vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, frustration, falling down, seizures, etc.? <p>Note: When bad days outnumber goods days, the quality of life for the declining dog might 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 needs to be made if your dog has unresponsive suffering. If death comes peacefully and painlessly at home, that is okay.</p>
Total	<input type="text"/>	<p>*A total over 35 points represents acceptable life quality to continue with dog hospice. A total of 70 is a perfect score.</p>