

Quality of Life Scale:

Making the decision to let your pet go is an extremely difficult one. Hence, this scale is a **guideline** to help determine if your pet still has a quality of life that seems acceptable.

Score Criterion (0 = unacceptable, 10 = excellent)

- 0-10 **Pain** – Is the patient in pain, including distress from difficulty in breathing? Are there outward signs of discomfort (excessive panting, whining, pacing)?

- 0-10 **Nutrition** – Is the pet eating enough? Does hand feeding help? Does the pet need to be enticed to eat? Is the pet losing weight from lack of appetite?

- 0-10 **Hydration** – Is the pet constantly dehydrated? Does the pet need assistance in drinking? Or is there an increase in drinking (can be associated with certain diseases)?

- 0-10 **Happiness** – Is the pet responsive to family, friends, and other pets? Does the pet still enjoy being in the company of family members and seeks their attention? Does the pet hide in rooms, under beds and/or in closets? Is the pet depressed, lonely, anxious or afraid?

- 0-10 **Mobility** – Does the pet have difficulty in getting around? Does the pet need human or mechanical help (e.g. cart)? Can the pet get up without assistance? Does the pet enjoy going for a walk and/or going outside?

- 0-10 **More good days vs. bad** – Do the bad days outnumber the good? Is the pet suffering appreciable? Is a healthy human-animal bond no longer possible?

Total: A total of >30 points is an acceptable quality of life for pets