

Quality of Life Scale (HHHHMM Scale)

Using a scale of 0 to 10 (where 1 = unacceptable and 10 = excellent), patients can be evaluated for their quality of life.

Score	Criterion
_____	Hurt - Is the patient in pain, including distress from difficulty in breathing? Can the pet's pain be successfully managed? Is oxygen necessary?
_____	Hunger - Is the pet eating enough? Does hand-feeding help? Does the pet require a feeding tube?
_____	Hydration - Is the pet dehydrated? Are subcutaneous fluid once or twice daily enough to resolve the problem? Are they well tolerated?
_____	Hygiene - The pet should be kept brushed and 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? Can the pet's bed be near the kitchen and moved near family activities to minimize isolation?
_____	Mobility - Can the pet get up without assistance? Does the pet need human or mechanical help (eg. a cart)? Does s/he feel like going for a walk? Is s/he having seizures or stumbling? <i>Note: Some caregivers feel euthanasia is preferable to amputation, yet an animal with limited mobility may still be alert and responsive, and can have a good quality of life as long as the family committed to quality care.</i>
_____	More Good Days than Bad - When bad days outnumber good days, the pet's suffering is appreciable and quality of life might be compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, the caregiver must be made aware that the end is near.

Total: _____

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

*Adapted from Canine and Feline Geriatric Oncology: Honoring the Human-Animal Bond
Villalobos A, Kaplan L-Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2007, with permission.*