









Lifting Stars Pet Homecare - Calculate Your Pet's Quality of Life

A Quality of Life Scale is a helpful tool to assist you in the process of making the difficult decision to provide a peaceful and painless passing of your beloved pet. Use the following scale as an estimate of your pet's quality of life. Score your pet for each of the seven signs below, using a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being ideal. Compare the scale at different times of the day, and consider having multiple pet caregivers use the scale. Discuss your results with each other and with your veterinarian.

		Score 0-10
	Hurt	
Adequate pain control & ability to breathe normally is of top concern. Trouble breathing outweighs all concerns. Can your pet breathe properly? Is pain well-controlled? Could medications be given, or current doses modified, to help?		
	Hunger	
Is your pet eating enough and do they still seem to enjoy eating? Does hand feeding or a modified diet help? Are they eating enough to maintain their weight? Is their body condition good or are they very thin?		
	Hydration	
Is your pet dehydrated? Are thirst and urination decreased, normal, increased or excessive? For pets not drinking enough, flavoring their water to encourage intake or the use of subcutaneous fluids may help.		
	Hygiene	
Is your pet able to maintain their cleanliness either on their own or with your help? Are they willing and able to eliminate in appropriate areas, or are accidents happening? Is their skin and coat clean, dry and healthy in appearance?		
	Happiness	
Does your pet express joy and interest throughout the day? Are they still responsive to things or activities that used to interest them? Are they still doing their regular daily routines? Do they seem depressed, lonely, anxious, bored or afraid?		
	Mobility	
Can your pet get up without assistance and walk to appropriate areas to eat, eliminate and rest as desired? Are they stumbling or falling and could potentially risk hurting themselves? Could better footing, a cart, a ramp or steps help?		
	More Good Days Than Bad	
When bad days outnumber good days, your pet's quality of life is of concern. Can medications or supportive care be added or modified to help? Is the caregiver physically, emotionally and financially able to continue care as needed?		
	Total	

*A total over 35 points suggests that your pet has a good quality of life. Please use this scale only as a guideline, and discuss the findings with your veterinarian for a more accurate assessment of their quality of life and to discuss options for your pet's continued care.