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Quality of Life (HHHHHMM) Scale

Using a scale of 0 to 10 where **0 = unacceptable** and **10 = excellent**, pets can be evaluated for their quality of life.

Hurt	Is your pet in pain, including distress from difficulty in breathing? Can your pet's pain be successfully managed? Is oxygen necessary?	/10
Hunger	Is your pet eating enough? Does hand-feeding help? Does your pet require a feeding tube?	/10
Hydration	Is your pet dehydrated? Are subcutaneous fluids once or twice daily enough to resolve the problem? Are they well tolerated?	/10
Hygiene	Are you able to keep your pet brushed and clean, especially after elimination. Does your pet have pressure sores?	/10
Happiness	Does your pet express joy and interest? Are they responsive to things around him (family, toys, etc.)? Is your pet depressed, lonely, anxious, bored or afraid? Can your pet's bed be moved near family activities to minimize isolation?	/10
Mobility	Can your pet get up without assistance? Do they need human or mechanical help (e.g., cart)? Do they want to go for walks? Are they having seizures or stumbling? Note: Some animals with limited mobility may still be alert and responsive, and can have a good quality of life as long as the family is committed to quality care.	/10
More GOOD days than bad	When bad days outnumber good days, your pet's suffering is appreciable and quality of life might be too compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, you should know that the end is near.	/10
A total of >35 points is an acceptable quality of life for pets TOTAL		/70

Adapted from Canine and Feline Geriatric Oncology: Honoring the Human – Animal Bond, Villalobos A, Kaplan L – Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2007, with permission. Published in the May 2008 issue of Clinician's Brief (Decision-Making Issues with Euthanasia, p 23)