

Assessing Quality of Life



Your pet has been a member of your family and has provided love and comfort to you. As a pet parent, there may come a time when it is necessary to assess their comfort level. Along with guidance from your veterinarian, ask yourself the following questions to help determine if your pet is still living a good quality life.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

DOES HE/SHE:

- Seem happy (tail wagging, enjoy petting, etc)?
- Groom themselves?
- Have difficulty breathing or excessive panting?

INTERACTION

DOES HE/SHE:

- Spend time with the family?
- Isolate themselves?
- Enjoy playing?

BEHAVIOR

DOES HE/SHE:

- Exhibit anxiety?
- Display behavioral problems that limit lifestyle?

DIET

DOES HE/SHE:

- Eat normally?
- Drink normally?
- Have difficulties maintaining normal weight?

ELIMINATION

DOES HE/SHE:

- Urinate normally and have regular bowel movements?
- Have inappropriate eliminates unresponsive to medical or adaptation efforts.

PAIN

DOES HE/SHE:

- Have trouble jumping, running, or moving?
- Wimper or cry when getting up, or when you pet them?
- Have troubles standing?

Answering these questions may not be easy to do. If you have made the determination that your pet's quality of life is poor, humane euthanasia may be the kindest thing you can do for your pet. Euthanasia is often accompanied by feelings of confusion, guilt, anger, and sadness. These feelings are part of the normal grieving process. Consulting with family, friends, or your veterinarian will help you emotionally accept your decision. In the end, humane euthanasia may be the best decision you can make for your beloved pet.