Lap of Love Pet
Quality-of-Life Scale

When evaluating the quality of life of your pet, personalized patient and family information is important when reaching an educated, informed, and supported choice that fits not only your pet's medical condition, but also your wishes and expectations. In short, quality of life applies not only to the pet, it also applies to you!

Your Name: ____________________________

Date & Time: __________________________

Pet’s Name: ____________________________

SCORE EACH SUBSECTION ON A SCALE OF 0-2:

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
  ___ Desire to be with the family has not changed
  ___ Interacts normally with family or other pets (i.e., no increased aggression or other changes)

MENTAL HEALTH
  ___ Enjoys normal play activities
  ___ Still dislikes the same thing (i.e., still hates the mailman = 0, or doesn’t bark at the mailman anymore = 2)
  ___ No outward signs of stress or anxiety
  ___ Does not seem confused or apathetic
  ___ Nighttime activity is normal, no changes seen

HEALTH
  ___ No changes in breathing or panting patterns
  ___ No outward signs of pain (excessive panting, pacing, and whining are most commonly seen)
  ___ No pacing around the house
  ___ My pet’s overall condition has not changed recently

NATURAL FUNCTIONS
  ___ Appetite has stayed the same
  ___ Drinking has stayed the same
  ___ Normal urination habits
  ___ Normal bowel movement habits
  ___ Ability to ambulate (walk around) has stayed the same

RESULTS
  ___ Total score added from each section

0-8: Quality of life is most likely adequate. No medical intervention required yet, but guidance from your veterinarian may help you identify signs to look for in the future.

9–16: Quality of life is questionable and medical intervention is suggested. Your pet would certainly benefit from veterinary oversight and guidance to evaluate the disease process he/she is experiencing.

17-32: Quality of life is a definite concern. Changes will likely become more progressive and more severe in the near future. Veterinary guidance will help you better understand the end stages of your pet’s disease process in order to make a more informed decision of whether to continue hospice care or elect peaceful euthanasia.
**Lap of Love**

**Pet Family Concerns**

**SCORE EACH ITEM ON A SCALE OF 0-2:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 = I am not concerned at this time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 = There is some concern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 = I am concerned about this</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING THINGS:**

- [ ] Pet suffering
- [ ] Desire to perform nursing care for your pet
- [ ] Pet dying alone
- [ ] Ability to perform nursing care for your pet
- [ ] Not knowing the right time to euthanize
- [ ] Coping with loss
- [ ] Concern for other household animals
- [ ] Concern for other members of the family (i.e. children)

**RESULTS**

- [ ] Total score added from each section

**DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW, AND THE ENTIRE QUALITY-OF-LIFE SCALE, WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN**

Below are some open-ended questions that assist gauge your family’s time, emotional, and (when appropriate, financial) budgets:

1. Have you ever been through the loss of a pet before? If so, what was your experience (good or bad, and why)?
2. What do you hope the life expectancy of your pet will be? What do you think it will be?
3. What is the ideal situation you wish for your pet’s end of life experience? (at home, pass away in her sleep, etc.)

**Suggestions on using this quality-of-life scale:**

1. Complete the scale at different times of the day, note circadian fluctuations in well-being. (We find most pets tend to do worse at night and better during the day.)
2. Request multiple members of the family complete the scale; compare observations.
3. Take periodic photos of your pet to help you remember their physical appearance.

**Resources:**

1. AAHA/AAFP Pain Management Guidelines for Dogs and Cats, [www.aahanet.org/Library/PainMgmt.aspx](http://www.aahanet.org/Library/PainMgmt.aspx)