



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.

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.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

Does your pet:

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

INTERACTION

Does your pet:

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

BEHAVIOR

Does your pet:

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

DIET

Does your pet:

- Eat and drink normally?
- Have difficulties maintaining normal weight?

ELIMINATION

Does your pet:

- Urinate normally and have regular bowel movements?
- Have inappropriate eliminations unresponsive to medical efforts?

PAIN

Does your pet:

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