

WHEN IS IT TIME?

When your pet is reaching the end of her life, how do you know when it's time to say goodbye? Although there is no straightforward answer, this evaluation is designed to guide you as you make your decision. Please base your answers on your pet's current condition and keep in mind any new behaviors you're seeing.

TOTAL SCORE: _____

If your score is:

0-13 points – Your pet's quality of life is acceptable

14-23 points – Your pet's quality of life is diminished

24 or more points – This is not a good quality of life



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QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PET

BREATHING Does your pet have difficulty breathing? Is his breathing labored?

0 1 2 * * *

Not a problem Rarely Occasionally Frequently Regularly Always a problem

**Note: If you answer is Frequently, Regularly, or Always, please go no further – your pet's quality of life is questionable. Please talk to your veterinarian immediately.*

PAIN Do you think your pet is in pain? Does your veterinarian think your pet is in pain? Is the pain difficult to control, even with medication? Is your pet so painful he tries to bite?

0 1 2 3 4 5

Not a problem Rarely Occasionally Frequently Regularly Always a problem

APPETITE Has your pet recently experienced a loss of appetite? Do you now have to hand feed her to coax her to eat?

0 1 2 3 4 5

Not a problem Rarely Occasionally Frequently Regularly Always a problem

**Note: A good appetite does not always equate to a good quality of life.*

AGITATION Is your pet anxious, fearful, or restless? Is he whining? Is he unable to sleep through the night?

0 1 2 3 4 5

Not a problem Rarely Occasionally Frequently Regularly Always a problem

INFECTIONS Does your pet suffer from chronic, recurring wounds or infections that cannot be controlled (eg, bed sores or urinary tract infections)?

0 1 2 3 4 5

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ATTITUDE Does your pet seem unhappy or less engaged? Is she no longer excited by things she used to like (eg, a ball, catnip, the jingle of keys, a favorite visitor)? Do you think your dog has lost her will to live?

0 1 2 3 4 5

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QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU

TIME ENERGY RESOURCES Do you have trouble finding the time, energy, and resources to care for your pet as you should, including keeping him clean/medicated/hydrated or, if he's paralyzed, moving him when you change rooms or doing position changes to avoid bed sores?

0 1 2 3 4 5

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EMOTIONAL TOLL Does it make you sad or depressed to see your pet like this? Is your pet's condition too much for you to bear, either physically or emotionally? Do you find it stressful to care for him, including medicating or cleaning him?

0 1 2 3 4 5

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