

4200 First Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

(319) 378-8187 Office
(855) 378-8187 Toll-free

companions@CedarMemorial.com Email
www.CompanionsForLife.com Website



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16185 SE Laurel Street
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(515) 264-3459 Office
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companions@CedarMemorial.com Email
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Quality of Life Scale for _____

Use this scale as a tool to assess the state of your pet's health. Assign a score from 1 (bad) to 10 (good) for each category, then tally the score. A total over 35 points represents acceptable life quality.

Hurt	Adequate pain control, including breathing ability, is first and foremost. Is the pet's pain successfully managed? Is oxygen supplementation necessary?	
Hunger	Is the pet eating enough? Does hand feeding help?	
Hydration	Is the pet dehydrated? For pets not drinking enough, use IV fluids once or twice daily to supplement fluid intake.	
Hygiene	The pet should be brushed and cleaned, particularly after elimination. Avoid pressure sores and keep all wounds clean.	
Happiness	Does the pet express joy and interest? Is the pet responsive to things around him or her (family, toys, etc.)? Is the pet depressed, lonely, anxious, bored or afraid? Can the pet's bed be close to the family activities and not be isolated?	
Mobility	Can the pet get up without assistance? Does the pet need human or mechanical help (e.g. a cart)? Does the pet feel like going for a walk. Is the pet having seizures or stumbling? <i>(Some Caregivers feel euthanasia is preferable to amputation, yet an animal who has limited mobility but is still alert and responsive can have a good quality of life as long as caregivers are committed to helping the pet.)</i>	
More good days than bad	When bad days outnumber good days, quality of life might be compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, the caregiver must be made aware the end is near. The decision needs to be made if the pet is suffering. If death comes peacefully and painlessly, that is okay.	
Total:		

Adapted by Villalobos, A.E., Quality of Life Scale Helps Make Final Call, VPN, 09/2004, for Canine and Feline Geriatric Oncology Honoring the Human-Animal Bond, by Blackwell Publishing, Table 10.1, released 2006.