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QUALITY OF LIFE ASSESSMENT

At times it may be difficult to judge your pet’s well-being; particularly when a pet is part of your family, emotions may make it more challenging to objectively assess quality of life. This assessment is provided as a tool to help evaluate your pet’s well-being. Generally, we prefer to see your pet scoring at least 5 (adequate) in each category to believe that we are adequately maintaining his or her quality of life.

Scoring: 0-1/poor, 2-4/fair, 5-6/adequate, 7-8/good, 9-10/excellent		
Category		Score
Pain	Is your pet comfortable? Is pain management adequate?	
Appetite	Is your pet taking in food adequately? Is body weight being maintained?	
Hydration	Is your pet drinking adequately? Are hydration needs met with supplemental fluids?	
Vomiting	Is your pet keeping food down? Is any vomiting controlled with medication?	
Defecation	Is your pet having bowel movements regularly? Is any diarrhea or constipation controlled?	
Hygiene	Is your pet maintained as clean and dry? Are wounds, tumors, or any areas of discharge or urine/fecal elimination kept clean so that urine scald or skin problems do not occur?	
Respiration	Can your pet breathe without difficulty? Are oxygen levels maintained adequately? Is any coughing controlled with medication?	
Mobility	Can your pet rise without help? Does your pet show interest in walking? Is your pet given the opportunity for daily exercise?	
Attitude	Does your pet express interest in his or her surroundings? Does your pet interact normally with other pets and people? Does your pet express happiness and contentment?	
Overall	Does your pet have more good days than bad?	
Total Score	50 or less = poor quality of life; greater than 50 = reasonable quality of life	