



How Do I Know When It's Time?

MY PET...	STRONGLY AGREE (all the time)	AGREE (most of the time)	NEUTRAL (sometimes/ midl)	DISAGREE (occasionally/ slight)	STRONGLY DISAGREE (never/none)
Does not want to play/not active as normal	1	2	3	4	5
Does not respond to my presence/interact with me as before	1	2	3	4	5
Does not enjoy same activities as before	1	2	3	4	5
hiding/shaking/trembling	1	2	3	4	5
demeanor /behavior is not the same as it was prior to diagnosis	1	2	3	4	5
More bad than good days/ does not seem to enjoy life	1	2	3	4	5
dull/depressed/sleeping more than usual	1	2	3	4	5
Seems to be or is experiencing pain	1	2	3	4	5
Not eating well/losing weight/not drinking well	1	2	3	4	5
Abnormal bowel movements/not urinating well/unable to keep self clean after soiling	1	2	3	4	5
Not moving around normally/needs help getting up or down	1	2	3	4	5
Coat is greasy/matted/or rough-looking	1	2	3	4	5
Acting different towards other pet members in the household	1	2	3	4	5
Is panting/coughing/wheezing even while resting	1	2	3	4	5

Poor Quality

Good Quality



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While some pets die of old age in the comfort of their own home, many others become seriously ill, get injured in some way or experience a significantly diminished quality of life as they grow very old. In these situations, it may be necessary for you to consider having your pet euthanized.

Deciding to euthanize your companion animal may be one of the most difficult decisions you ever make. Often, well-loved pets are euthanized to minimize unnecessary suffering. The quality of animals' lives is defined by their overall physical and mental well-being. The chart on the opposite side of this sheet attempts to consider all aspects of your pet's life. It is important to remember that all pets are unique and different. What may be considered a poor quality for one may be different for another.

Higher numbers on this chart equal a better quality of life. This chart may help you better visualize the general well-being of your pet. In some cases, even one item on the left-hand side of the chart may indicate a poor quality of life (example: pain) even if many other items are still positive. Some items or symptoms on the list may be expected side effects of the treatments that your pet is undergoing. It is important to discuss these symptoms and side effects with your veterinarian.

Questions to ask yourself

1. What is the most important thing when considering my pet's end-of-life treatment?
2. What are my thoughts about humane euthanasia?
3. Has my veterinary provider/team recommended euthanasia?
4. Has my companion's condition worsened over time?

The following tools may aid you in making the decision to euthanize

- Enlist the help of your veterinarian. While they cannot make the decision for you it is helpful for him/her to know that you are considering euthanasia
- Remember how your pet looked and behaved prior to illness. Sometime changes are gradual and therefore hard to recognize. Look at past photos or videos of your pet before the illness