EUTHANIZATION - WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME?

One of the hardest decisions we must make is when is it time to put our pets down. These are things I use to decide –

1. Is the animal in pain or discomfort that cannot be controlled? No animal wants to live in pain or discomfort.
2. Is there any real quality of life left? Does the pet play and interact with you still (for more than just a few minutes a day)? If the pet is just eating, sleeping, and pooping and maybe interacting just a little, it is time. Choose five things your ferret used to like to do. If the ferret can't do three of those five, then there's very little quality of life.
3. Is it probable the pet is going to have a seizure, severe pain, or some other serious emergency during a time when it will be difficult to get to a vet? You do not want to have your ferret go into a seizure, have severe pain, or anything like that when you will have to frantically be calling around to find a vet or worse, let it die in pain at your home because you couldn’t find a vet.

As humans, we tend to postpone the inevitable because we can't bear the thought of putting our pets down. We're going to have to go through the pain one way or the other, but sometimes we make our pet live longer than it wants or needs to because we can't make this hard decision. You’re making it harder on yourself because you’re grieving for the days leading up to the decision, rather than just grieving once the pet is finally put to peace.

*Think of it in terms of the pet, not yourself.*