

Dog Life Quality Assessment

Write "1" in the appropriate column to the right of the assessment parameter. At the bottom you'll tally the columns and calculate your dog's score.

Category	My Dog...	Yes	Sometimes	No/Not Applicable
SLEEPING	Wakes once or more at night to go out to eliminate			
	Wakes once or more at night for no apparent reason, seems restless or anxious (pants, paces, whines)			
	Sleeps more than usual during the day			
	Sleeps less than usual during the night			
MENTATION	Wanders aimlessly around the house			
	Paces habitually in one location			
	Stares vacantly into space			
	Gets stuck or stands in corners or under furniture, or in unusual places in the yard			
	Seems anxious, restless or unsettled during waking hours			
	Is more clingy than normal			
	Wants to be left alone or seeks hiding spots			
	Shows less interest in exciting activities (riding in the car, greeting visitors, watching squirrels)			
	Seeks less attention (love and cuddles)			
	Shows less interest in playing with toys			
Barks or whines for no apparent reason				
APPETITE AND THIRST	Has less interest in food or eats less than normal			
	Needs to be hand-fed			
	Refuses to eat			
	Seems nauseous or vomits one or more times a week			
	Drinks water more often			
	Requires subcutaneous fluid therapy			

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Category	My Dog...	Yes	Sometimes	No/Not Applicable
ELIMINATION	Has diarrhea or stool is soft and unformed			
	Has fecal incontinence one or more times a week			
	Urinating more than usual			
	Has urinary incontinence (dribbles urine after urinating normally or leaks urine while sleeping or resting)			
MOBILITY	Has difficulty lying down			
	Has difficulty getting up			
	Has difficulty walking up or down stairs or needs help			
	Drags a foot or toes when walking			
	Appears wobbly when walking			
	Takes shorter or less frequent walks than normal			
	Cannot run and play like before			
	Shows less interest in going for walks or normal play activities			
	Cannot jump up to or down from favorite spots like they used to			
APPEARANCE	Looks thinner or less muscular			
	Has a dull facial expression, is not bright and alert			
	Hangs head and seems listless			
	Has a bad odor from skin, ears, or mouth			
	Appears unkempt, has a rough, matted or thin haircoat or hair loss			
	Has pressure sores or scabs			
BREATHING	Pants more than normal			
	Tires easily with normal activity			
	Shows signs of difficulty breathing (anxious, wide-eyed expression when panting, increased chest expansion and abdominal push when inhaling, abnormal gum or tongue color)			
	Sounds different when barking (croaky, raspy or harsh)			
	Requires oxygen support			

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Category	My Dog...	Yes	Sometimes	No/Not Applicable
VISION	Has decreased vision			
	Bumps into objects, has difficulty finding bowls			
HEARING	Has decreased hearing			
	Startles easily when touched or seems less aware of approaching family members or other pets in the household			
PAIN OR DISCOMFORT	Is irritable or aggressive (growls, snaps or bites at people or other pets)			
	Resists being petted			
	Resists being picked up			

Total Assessment Factors	
Enter the total from the Yes column	
Halve the total from the Sometimes column. For example, if you answered "Sometimes" 7 times, then enter 3.5.	
Add the value from the 'Yes' column and the one-half value from the 'Sometimes' column. This is the total negative life quality score.	
Score interpretation	# of 'Negative Points'
Consider seeing your veterinarian to discuss the life quality factors you've marked.	Up to 8 points
Life quality is a concern, and your veterinarian can provide guidance on how to treat or help manage your dog's symptoms.	9-18 points
Life quality is deteriorating, and your dog would benefit from veterinary medical intervention to provide palliative care.	19-26 points
Life quality is poor. Consider veterinary hospice care or end-of-life discussions for your dog with your veterinarian.	27-36 points
Life quality is extremely poor. Consider euthanasia or palliative supported natural passing.	Over 36 points