

# QUALITY OF LIFE ASSESSMENT FORM

Every animal care organization or facility must develop euthanasia policies and protocols that are **determined** to be **both** in the animals' best interest and **appropriate** to the organization or facility's resources. The Quality of Life Assessment Form is intended as a guide to assist shelters in the development of these policies and protocols based on individual medical and behavioral signs and the observations of trained personnel; a low score indicates a poor prognosis. Other factors will also influence the shelter's policies and protocols.

Animal's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis or presenting signs: \_\_\_\_\_

Past/current treatment(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Previous evaluation score: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Mobility**

### Expectations:

- The bird can perform some form of mild exercise.
- The bird can hold his/her head when at rest.
- The bird can walk and balance.
- The bird can maneuver about his/her surroundings without assistance.

**Evaluation: 5 = always, 4 = most of the time, 3 = sometimes, 2 = rarely, 1 = never**

(Enter scores for each question below.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Can the bird get to his/her feet without assistance?

\_\_\_\_\_ Can the bird stand without collapsing?

\_\_\_\_\_ Can the bird walk? If applicable, can s/he fly?

\_\_\_\_\_ Can the bird perform basic functions, such as moving to and from the food and water dishes?

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /20

**Sustenance**

Expectations:

- The bird is able to eat and drink without assistance.
- The bird is able to eat and drink without discomfort or pain.

**Evaluation: 5 = always, 4 = most of the time, 3 = sometimes, 2 = rarely, 1 = never**

(Enter scores for each question below.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Can the bird eat by him/herself?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can the bird consume enough food (or digest enough food) to remain properly nourished?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the bird able to eat or drink without regurgitating his/her food or water?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the bird able to chew?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the bird able to swallow his/her food without difficulty?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the bird enjoy eating (i.e., it is not necessary to coax every bite into his/her mouth)?

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /30

**Physical Comfort**

Expectations:

- The bird appears comfortable and free of moderate to severe pain.
- The bird is able to eat, drink, and sleep comfortably.
- The bird is able to breathe freely and without difficulty.
- The bird is able to urinate and defecate without difficulty or incontinence.
- The bird is free from uncontrollable pain, distress, and discomfort.

**Evaluation: 5 = always, 4 = most of the time, 3 = sometimes, 2 = rarely, 1 = never**

(Enter scores for each question below.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Dose the bird appear agitated or bothered by pain or discomfort?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the bird able to stand or sit in a relaxed manner?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the bird tolerate touch and necessary handling by the caregiver and other birds?

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /15

**Psychological Factors**

Expectations:

- The bird is able to interact with his/her environment.
- The bird shows signs of interest in what is going on around him/her.
- The bird experiences pleasure from his/her surroundings.
- The bird does not express stereotypic or self-injurious behavior(s).

**Evaluation: 5 = always, 4 = most of the time, 3 = sometimes, 2 = rarely, 1 = never**

(Enter scores for each question below.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Are the bird's sensory faculties sufficient to allow him/her to be acclimated to his/her surroundings?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the bird able to safely navigate within the immediate environment?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the bird comfortable in his/her surroundings; does s/he recognize and respond appropriately to familiar animals, objects, sounds, voices, and people?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the bird abstain from performing stereotypic behavior such as pacing, route tracing, repetitive bar biting, or tongue rolling?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the bird abstain from self-injurious behavior(s)?

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /25

**Condition and Treatment Considerations**

Expectations:

- Commonly accepted treatment is available and has been effective in other, similar cases.
- Treatment will cure the condition or alleviate pain and discomfort.
- Treatment will offer the bird a reasonable degree of life quality rather than quantity.

**Evaluation:** 5 = always, 4 = most of the time, 3 = sometimes, 2 = rarely, 1 = never

(Enter scores for each question below.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the bird's condition well-understood? Is effective treatment(s) available?

\_\_\_\_\_ Will treatment alleviate pain, distress, or discomfort?

\_\_\_\_\_ Will treatment halt the progression of the bird's condition?

\_\_\_\_\_ Will treatment permit normal activity and functioning?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is it possible to offer this bird a reasonable quality of life for a meaningful period of time?

**Additional Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /25

**Total score:** \_\_\_\_\_ /115