

Canine Euthanasia Checklist

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Pain & Discomfort		
- My dog limps.		
- My dog has an abnormal gait/posture.		
- My dog seems to be in pain most of the time.		
- My dog cries out when touched.		
- My dog repeatedly licks a part of his/her body excessively.		
- My dog pants a lot, even at rest.		
- My dog trembles sometimes during rest.		
- My dog's breathing is fast, labored, forced, or not normal.		
- My dog is on pain medication but doesn't work.		
2. Appetite		
- My dog doesn't eat his/her normal food anymore.		
- My dog vomits after eating.		
- My dog doesn't even want his/her treats anymore.		
- My dog can't eat because of pain in the mouth.		
- My dog is losing weight because of his/her appetite loss.		
- My dog doesn't drink as much water as before.		
- My dog vomits even after drinking water.		
3. Hygiene		
- My dog has very bad breath.		
- My dog gives out a foul smell.		
- My dog wets his/her bed so s/he smells like urine all the time.		
- My dog has skin irritation from urine.		
- My dog has matted, greasy, dull, rough hair.		
- My dog has wounds that won't heal.		
4. Mobility		
- My dog can't get up without my help.		
- My dog can't go out potty.		
- My dog sleeps in one place all day long.		
- My dog stumbles and falls easily.		
- My dog doesn't play, even his/her favorite games, anymore.		
- My dog doesn't like going out for walks anymore.		

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5. Behavioral Changes		
- My dog has become snappy and aggressive.		
- My dog is getting very clingy and is following me everywhere.		
- My dog is hiding under the bed (or other unusual places).		
- My dog doesn't greet me when I return home anymore.		
- My dog looks indifferent to what's happening around him/her.		
6. Mental State		
- My dog doesn't look happy. S/he looks dull, lethargic and depressed.		
- My dog doesn't respond to my call anymore.		
- My dog doesn't show excitement over things that used to excite him/her.		
- My dog doesn't show joy and interest in life.		
7. Treatment Options		
- My dog has an incurable disease.		
- Treatment costs would be financially impossible for me.		
- I can't miss work to take my dog for treatment regularly.		
- Treatment can only prolong his/her life for a very short time.		
- Treatment may cause more pain and discomfort to my dog.		
8. Put Yourself in Your Dog's Place		
- I wouldn't want to live like that.		
- I would likely feel pain if I were in my dog's situation.		
- There would be no fun/joy living in my dog's present condition.		
- I would probably have more bad days than good ones.		

Total the number of True and False answers: _____ True _____ False

The more True answers you have, the more seriously you should think about euthanizing your dog.

And if most of your answers are True, but you still don't want to consider euthanasia, ask yourself - Is it because:

- I would be lonely if I gave up my dog?
- I would feel guilty if I decided to put my dog to sleep?
- I postpone euthanasia for some sentimental reason (e.g. s/he helped me through a tough time in life)?

If you answer Yes to any of these 3 questions, then remind yourself that euthanasia is a final gift of selfless love, an act of kindness, to your dog.

Hope this checklist helps.