



# Veterinary Social Work

## End-of-Life Values and Goals Worksheet

This worksheet is designed to initiate the process of thinking about end-of-life issues before the critical moments. This should allow you to make decisions before emotions run high and is designed to eliminate feelings of guilt related to having made decisions against your core values in the critical moments. We invite you to take as much time as you need to complete this questionnaire. A veterinarian and/or social work professional will be available to answer any questions that you may have. **Also, please know that your responses to these questions will not be included in the patient's record and will not affect or authorize consent in any way for adjustments in the plan of care for your animal.**

Client: \_\_\_\_\_ Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the overall goal of care for \_\_\_\_\_ (insert the name of your animal\*)? What are we aiming for?

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What is the most important thing to you when considering \_\_\_\_\_'s end-of-life treatment?

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What are your thoughts about euthanasia?

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What would be the appropriate time for euthanasia for \_\_\_\_\_?  
(You may answer yes to more than one symptom/situation.)

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|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> If he/she is feeling pain?  | yes or no |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If he/she can no longer urinate and/or defecate on his/her own?   | yes or no |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If he/she starts to experience seizures?  | yes or no |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If he/she has become violent beyond control?  | yes or no |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If he/she has stopped eating?   | yes or no |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If he/she is no longer acting like himself/ herself?  | yes or no |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If he/she has a condition that will only worsen with time?  | yes or no |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If the veterinary team recommends euthanasia?   | yes or no |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If the veterinary team recommends euthanasia, but the required symptoms/situations that you listed above are not present? | yes or no |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If financial limitations prohibit treatment?  | yes or no |

Other/Comments

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Would it ever be appropriate for the veterinarian to euthanize without your presence?    yes   or   no  
If yes, please explain.

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We recognize at Veterinary Social Work that it can be difficult to think about money when dealing with the life of your pet; however, it is appropriate and important to consider your financial limitations when considering care. With this being said, what is your financial limit for treatment?

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When would it or would it not be appropriate to take steps toward resuscitating \_\_\_\_\_?

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If a traumatic event occurred, who would you contact and when would you contact them?

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If euthanasia or death occurs, would you like a necropsy (animal form of autopsy) completed on \_\_\_\_\_'s remains?    yes   or   no

What are your plans for \_\_\_\_\_'s remains? (home burial, cemetery burial, cremation, etc.)

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List any other thoughts, values or goals that you have regarding the end-of-life treatment of \_\_\_\_\_.

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\*We use the term "animal" because we respect that each of us has a unique relationship with our animal. People can consider their animals as family members, children, friends and companions. People may also consider their animals as resources, such as the farmer who stewards cattle or other livestock. We respect the uniqueness of each human-animal relationship and seek to support that unique relationship in whatever way is deemed helpful.

This worksheet is a collaborative effort of The University of Tennessee College of Social Work and The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. Created by Tiffany Pennington, a 2007-2008 Veterinary Social Work Clinical Intern.

