



Hospice Intake:

Pet's Name: _____

Date: _____

Owner date of birth: _____

Credit card authorization filled out? _____

Medication delivery preference: PETS _____ Mail _____ Ask Each Time _____

First, gain an understanding of needs to help guide and frame the remainder of the intake

- What brought you to seeking our care? What made you reach out to us?
- What are your goals for this *appointment*?
- What are your goals for our *relationship* together?
- What do you feel are your biggest challenges and unanswered questions at this point?
- How can we best help?

Next, frame the big picture of how the appointment will flow:

- *Let's begin by explaining how the appointment will go...*
- *First, we will be talking about all the medical aspects of his/her care, including how to monitor for changes and how to give treatments*
- *We will then move into talking about all about the quality of life aspects of care, such as goals, how to plan for euthanasia, and the euthanasia process itself, if you wish to talk about this now*
- *And just so you know, this is a very organic process, and please stop and ask questions at any time, it won't be disruptive at all*

As we talked about, we will first discuss the medical aspects of care...

Education about the disease

- *Share with me your understanding of the disease process* and what has been explained to you thus far with regards to "what is going on" with your pet
- What treatment and/or management options for your pet's disease have been offered to you?
 - *Revisit all options for treatment and care based on the specific disease present*
- What are the signs/symptoms (if any) you are seeing now?

- What do you feel these signs/symptoms may mean?

Disease trajectories

- Discussion around what to anticipate as the disease progresses
- Possible trajectories (i.e., CHF trajectories – 1. Slow changes that we can intervene for and keep stable for some time 2. Rapid changes and acute distress that we cannot improve despite measures 3. ATE 4. Sudden death)

Management of clinical symptoms and pain

- Education around recognition of symptoms (current or anticipated) and management options
 - nausea, dehydration, constipation, dyspnea/respiratory decline, melena, anemia, urinary tract infections, urinary obstructions, cognitive changes, other _____
- Review BEAP pain scale and work through pain scale worksheets
- Refer to pethospice.com for “Recognizing Pain in Pets” module

Development and implementation of the medical plan

- *Discussion and prioritization of recommended treatments*
 - Offer all options of what we can do, but share that we do not need to implement all options for palliative care based on goals, temperament, ability to medicate, finances of family, etc.
 - Do you have any understandable financial considerations or concerns with managing your pet’s ongoing care?
- *Initial plan*: medical management options for disease/symptom management that will begin now
 - Medication plan for current signs/symptoms and disease management
 - Medication plan for pain management
 - Discuss how we will deliver or mail medications in the next day or two (shipping may be faster than picking up at PETS pending the day of the appointment)
- *Anticipated plan*: medical management options for symptom management that we anticipate will occur in the future as disease progresses
 - What we recommend having on hand for the at-home pharmacy in anticipation of future clinical signs that develop based on disease (i.e., SQF, injectable cerenia, injectable famotadine, injectable pain medication, appetite stimulant, etc.)
 - Importance of having “emergency” comfort medications on hand so that we can immediately implement supportive care if a clinical decline is noted
- *Preparing for emergency situations*:

- Discussion around dispensing a Comfort Kit
- Arrangements for 24-hour care in case of after-hours emergency

Preferences for tracking disease trajectory

- Would you wish to consider additional or continued diagnostics or simply manage his/her care based on symptoms alone?
- In-home testing vs. return to hospital for testing vs. no further diagnostics?
- Discussion of risk vs. benefit of symptomatic management only

Medications

- Confirm current medications: _____
- Does your pet easily take medications?
- Any challenges with administration?
- Would compounded/injectable options be less stressful for you and your pet?
- Can you give injections or be willing to learn? **INJECTION/SQF DEMO IF NEEDED**
- If medication administration easy, would you be interested in supplementing with
- nutraceuticals and herbals?

Adjunct care

- Acupuncture?
- Other?

Nutritional Support

- What is your pet's current diet?
- What is your pet's estimated daily food intake?
- What is your pet's estimated daily water intake?
- Are you having to feed/encourage intake?
- Discussion of food aversions and what to monitor for that this may be occurring
- Are you open to subcutaneous fluid administration?
- Would you be interested in home cooking or specially prepared/delivered food?

Environmental assessment

- Mobility- problem areas in home?
- Improvements to be made?

- Feeding- location/number food/water bowls, height?
- Litter boxes- size? Height? Distance and number if impaired mobility?
- Bedding- thickness? Padding? Waterproof barrier?
- Hygiene?
- Skin care?
- Thermal comfort- sun seeking? Benefit from heat pad? Benefit from cold therapy?

Now we will move in to understanding your goals and the quality of life aspects of care...

First, what are your previous experiences with caregiving, hospice, and/or end of life?

- Have you had to provide hospice care for a person or pet before?
- What have been your past medical and caregiving experiences?

Let's move in to an evaluation of your goals

- What are the goals for you and your pet?
- What are your “lines in the sand” with regards to “stopping points” in care? In other words, what don't you want your pet to experience or what point do you not want your pet to get to? (e.g., if my pet's pain cannot be controlled, when my pet can no longer get up by himself, when he no longer wants to engage with us as a family...)

Pet Quality of Life

- Current QoL today
 - What are your reasons for giving this score?
- Overall QoL just prior to disease
 - What are your reasons for giving this score?
- What are your biggest QoL concerns for your pet?
- Develop a personalized QoL calendar
 - Rating daily QoL on a scale of 0-10
 - *Refer to pethospice.com* for “Quality of Life” module, including video guide “how to develop a personalized QoL calendar” and the downloadable daily monitoring calendar

Family QOL

- What is your (owner) QoL right now?
- How about the rest of your family?

- Is anyone in your family struggling with decisions, care, or are “on a different page” from other family members?
- Who is your current support system? (Family members, friends, therapist, other medical providers)
- Are you experiencing caregiver burnout?
- Do you need help, would you benefit from a visiting nurse or respite care?
- Do you have travel plans in the upcoming future?
 - Who will be responsible for care and decisions?
 - Discuss filling out Absent Owner Consent Form and Credit Card Authorization (Care Coordinators will get this to family)

Now I would like to move into discussions around euthanasia; I understand this is a difficult conversation to have; is it OK if we talk about these considerations now, or would you prefer we have this discussion at a later time?

Preparation for death

- Discussion around the options for both euthanasia and a natural death:
 - Do you have a preference between euthanasia or a natural death?
 - What are your questions around these two options?
 - Is a natural death something you wish to consider or discuss in more detail? If so...
 - Discussion around what a natural death can look like; what the active dying process can look like and what to anticipate seeing during this time
 - Discussion of palliative sedation during the dying process
 - We will provide additional resources to guide natural death if this is wished for
- What are your previous experiences with euthanasia?
- What concerns do you have around euthanasia?
- Family considerations
 - Do you have children?
 - If so, what are their ages?
 - What are their previous experiences with death?
 - Other pets?
 - Who will be present?
- Have you thought about the place you wish to have the passing happen?
- Do you wish to have a ceremony or ritual before or after the passing?
 - Discussion around spending time with the body in the home

- If they wish to do this, we will send resources for care of body following a passing when remain in the home
- Discussion of the euthanasia process and what to expect –How to best plan for our timing together
 - 3 more good than bad days
 - 2 appointments in a row
 - 12-hour cancellation
- Aftercare considerations:
 - Discussion around private and communal cremation; home burial
 - Discussion around return of ashes
 - Ashes returned in ~ 1-2 weeks
 - Hand-delivered to PETS Referral Center; please pick up within 3-week time
 - We will send email notification
- Would you be interested in pet loss support resources for you or anyone in your family?