



Decision making worksheet

See the back of this sheet for related questions in each category, then write your answers in the spaces provided. Keep this sheet and refer to it when you need to make decisions.

Goals

Priorities

Fears

Trade-offs

Goals: What would you most like to see happen for your loved one? What would an ideal death look like? Is euthanasia something you wish to avoid, or something you expect to be part of the process? Common goals that we hear are prevention of suffering, being able to identify and treat pain and discomfort, or knowing when euthanasia is a reasonable option.

Priorities: What is most important to you? What are the most important things your pet should be able to do? Is a sense of dignity important? What are your religious or spiritual beliefs regarding dying, and how do those come into play here? What available resources do you have in terms of time, money, and energy? What are your pet's preferences - do they hate vet visits and medical treatments or do they tolerate them well? What activities do they really love, and without which their quality of life would be poor?

Fears: What are you most afraid of happening? Common fears we hear are untreated/unrecognized pain, or a crisis happening when there's no help available. What do you most want to avoid?

Trade-offs: What compromises would you be willing to make in exchange for more time with your loved one? What are you unwilling to compromise on no matter what?