

## Exercise: Consulting your vet about your pet's condition

Learning that your beloved companion animal is coming towards the end of their life is naturally very distressing, and it is perfectly normal to feel highly emotional and confused. However, it is important to try to keep a clear mind so that you understand as much as you can about your pet's condition and can work out what is best for them as time progresses. To help you get a clearer picture, here are some suggested questions to ask your veterinary team.

You may prefer to change these or add some of your own. Leave a space to jot down what the vet says in response so that you can take it home and look at it later.

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Question

What the vet says

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Is there any treatment or surgery to help my pet to live longer without suffering?

How would they feel during the treatment or after the surgery?

How long do you think this could give them?

How much would it cost?

Without any remedial treatment or surgery, how soon would my pet need to be put to sleep?

(I know that you can only give an estimate and that they could live longer or need to be put to sleep earlier.)

Will you be able to prescribe medication to keep them comfortable?

Are you able to tell me what you would do if this was your animal?

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This exercise is to help you ask your vet team relevant questions so that you understand as much as you can about your pet's situation. This will help you to stay focused on what is best for your beloved companion animal. (It will also help you avoid feeling confused or upset by unsolicited opinions given by other people telling you what they think you should do.)