

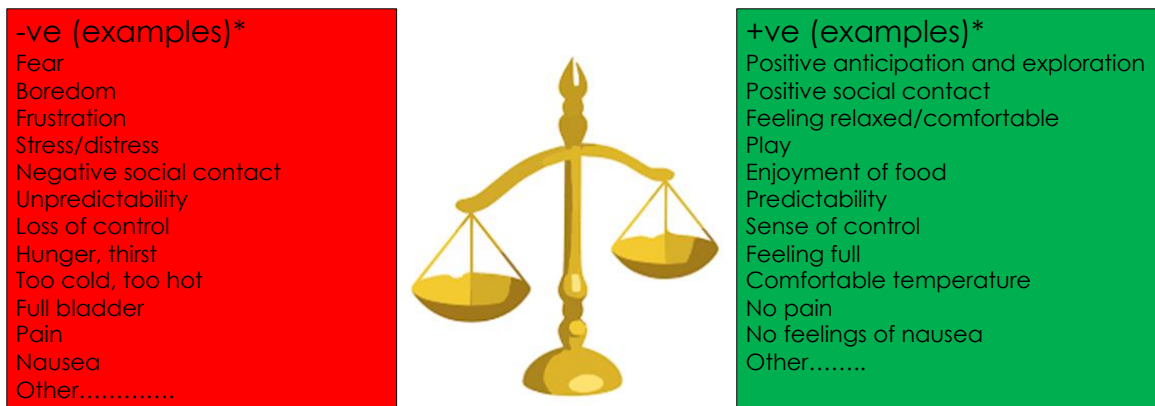
## Quality of Life Assessment Guidelines

**Quality of life (QoL) for a cat refers to the state of a cat's life (as we imagine it perceives it) at any given time. This is a balance between the cat's positive and negative experiences. A cat with a good quality of life would have many positive experiences and have few negative experiences.**

QoL assessments are subjective, so open to interpretation and difference of opinion in those making them. They can be most useful when

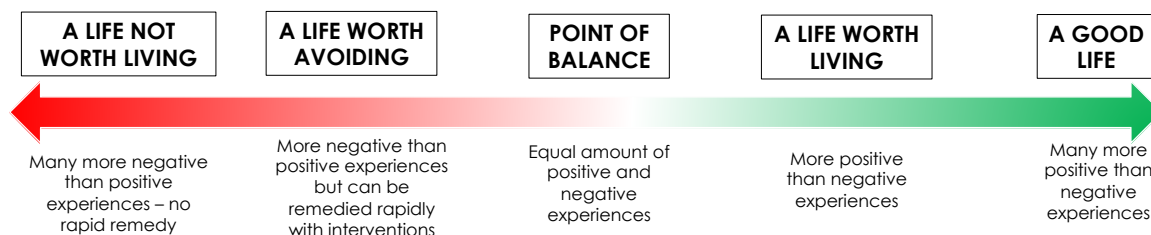
- 1) they are used repeatedly on the same individual in a comparative way (ie looking for changes over time that suggest a decline in positive and an increase in negative experiences, or vice versa)
- 2) they are used by several people assessing the same cat and a consensus is reached

### Quality of life



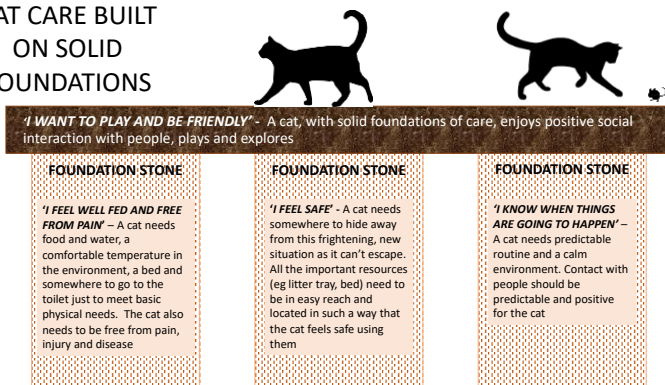
\*For each of these, positive or negative, the impact on the cat's Quality of Life will depend on how often, how long and at what intensity the cat experiences them

Use the quality of life balance scales above to look at positive and negative experiences (you may decide to add others to the list) and discuss where you feel the cat you are assessing sits on the scale below.



If more than one person is responsible for its care, then they should all independently mark on the scale what they believe is the cat's current QoL. This gives the team the chance to discuss similarities and differences between the assessments and reach a consensus. Everyone should be able to justify their reasons for the positioning of their mark, eg 'I think the cat's QoL currently is a life worth avoiding because...' Once there is agreement, the QoL assessment can be made and recorded (see below).

**CAT CARE BUILT ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS**

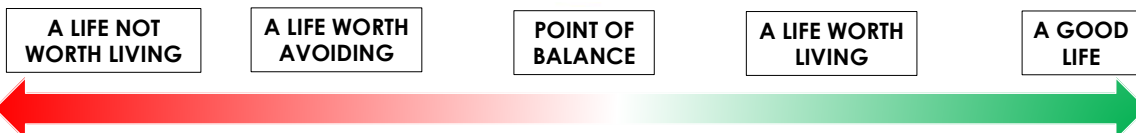


**Other questions to form part of the assessment process**

- Have we ensured that the cat's care is built on solid foundations?
- Can we provide the cat with more opportunities to have positive experiences?
- Can we remove the things causing the cat to have negative experiences?
- What QoL will the cat have in the future? Why do we think this will be the case?
- When did we last assess the cat for QoL? How has the cat's QoL improved/declined over time? What do we think has influenced this?

Date:

Cat's Name/No:



Date:



Date:



**AND REMEMBER...**

