



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DESK-BASED RESEARCH CALL

Validity, reliability and impact of quality of life assessment tools for companion animals

Background

Delayed euthanasia was highlighted in the Delphi report as a cross species issue and delayed euthanasia for elderly or suffering pets was an important source of welfare concern for cats, dogs and horses. There are currently a number of decision-making tools available which can be used to aid discussions between veterinary surgeons and their clients on euthanasia versus treatment. Whilst a brief literature search supports that there is some value in the use of these assessment tools, a more thorough review is warranted.

The project

A literature review with the aim of identifying which Quality of Life tools and assessments are already available for cats, dogs and horse owners. The review should assess how valid and reliable these tools are by investigating which are currently being used, how they are being used and whether the impact of their use has been assessed.

Outcomes

To increase awareness amongst veterinary professionals of which Quality of Life tools and assessments are of merit and can reliably reduce the likelihood of suffering due to delayed euthanasia.