

Saying Goodbye to Your Friend

For owners and veterinarians alike, euthanizing a pet is one of the most difficult things we will ever do. Euthanasia continues to be an option for many pet owners who do not want their terminally ill pet to suffer. We perform a peaceful and virtually pain-free procedure. We do not perform euthanasia when there are other and better alternatives still present.

Know When the Time is Right: Knowing when euthanasia should be considered depends on your pet's health as well as your own. It is often helpful to look at the quality of life your pet is experiencing. Does your pet still enjoy eating and other simple pleasures? Is your pet able to respond to you in a normal way? Is your pet experiencing more pain than pleasure?

Euthanasia Consultation: Schedule a consultation with our DVMs discuss this and other options.

Sign off Papers: You are required to authorize our DVM to perform this procedure.

Cremation Options: 3 options to choose from:

Individual: Your pet's body can be cremated at a special facility that cremates pets and the ashes can be returned to you in a beautiful wooden box.

Communal: You may choose to have your pet cremated with other pets. In this case, the ashes are generally not returned and handled appropriately by the crematory.

Burial at Home: If it is allowed where you live (check your zoning restrictions), you may be able to bury your pet at home.

Memorabilia: A large variety of products are available – customized paw prints, jewelry, urns etc.

Your Presence: Decide whether you want to be present while saying goodbye to your friend.

Procedure:

Step 1. A sedative drug is injected into the vein via IV catheter to relax your pet.

Step 2. The actual drug is injected immediately.

These two steps go very quick.

Cremation: Pet Memorial Crematory handles your pet's body and performs cremation as desired. Ashes or any memorabilia come back in 1-2 weeks.

Grief Counseling Resources Online:

The following resources are a comprehensive list of grief counseling services for you and your family:

Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement - <http://www.aplb.org/>

Coping with the Loss of a Pet - <http://www.homevet.com/bonding/loss.html>

Grief Healing - <http://griefhealing.com/>

Having to Say Goodbye - <http://www.landofpuregold.com/loss.htm>

Healing and Inspirational Poetry - <http://www.petloss.com/poems/poems.htm>

Lightning Strike Pet-Loss Support Page - http://www.lightning-strike.com/frame_pet-loss.htm