

A guide to a
Peaceful Passing



Fredonia Veterinary Clinic



A Peaceful Passing

Preparing yourself in advance for the death of your pet, while emotionally taxing, is a wise and thoughtful thing to do. Certainly none of us like to dwell on that thought, but planning ahead will give you and your family the opportunity to discuss how you would like to memorialize your beloved pet and to celebrate the life that you all shared together.

This guide is meant to start the conversation and make you aware of the options available to you. Take this time to reflect upon what your pet will need as well as the support you will need as you grieve. Knowing your various options will relieve much of the stress of ensuring what you do honors the life of your pet in the way that makes sense for you and your family. Your personal feelings or beliefs will influence this deeply personal decision and we're here to support you and your family, whatever decisions you make.

Do any of these statements express your desires for your pet's End-of-Life Walk?

- I prefer euthanasia, I want to be present when my pet passes
- I prefer euthanasia, I have other family members who will want to be present so I will schedule before "it's time"
- I prefer euthanasia, but do not wish to be present when my pet passes
- I prefer my pet die naturally, but if not I will elect to euthanize when their Quality of Life declines
- My pet will let me know when "it's time", I will euthanize at that time
- I will not have my pet euthanized, my pet will pass at home in their own time
- _____

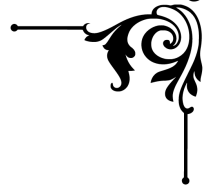
The final arrangement wish for my pet's body is:

- Burial
- Cremation

If burial, where?

- Home
- Friend's Home
- Local Pet Cemetery





Areas of consideration with this decision are:

- Will this municipality allow pet burials?
- Will you always live in this area or have access to this burial ground?
- Do your religious preferences guide you in one way or another?

For burial, will you want a vessel or casket to protect your pet's body?

- No
- Yes

If 'Yes', describe: _____

If cremation, will you want the ashes returned?

- No
- Yes – I want Private Cremation

For cremation, is it important to you to have your pet's body cremated alone in the crematory?

- No
- Yes – I want Private Cremation

If the answer to the last two questions is no, you should ask for Group Cremation. Your pet will be cremated with other pets, their ashes scattered in a designated area.

Is it important to you to see the crematorium or be present for the cremation?

- No – my veterinarian will facilitate the journey to and from the crematorium
- Yes – this can be arranged with Midwest Cremation Service

Good-Byes

There are different points at which pet families decide to say their good-byes. Many want one last time to be with their pet before or after death, a visitation or wake, if you will. While this may seem trivial, or possibly something that you consider morbid and odd, the choice is your's to make. A time to see your pet at peace. A time for your children to pay tribute, maybe by bringing in items special to your pet. A time to begin the grief journey and say that final good-bye.

Many times friends, family members, and other pets in the household will want to have their final good-bye with your pet too. Our pets touch so many during their short lives with us. As your comfort allows, consider how you want those around you to come together, pay their respects, and support each other.

The following Good-Bye times with my pets are important to me:

- "Last Day" or "Good Times" party before my pet passes or is euthanized
- In the veterinary clinic before the process of the euthanasia has begun
- In the veterinary clinic after my pet's anxiety and pain have been addressed
- In the veterinary clinic after my pet has passed
- In my home or at a memorial after my pet has passed

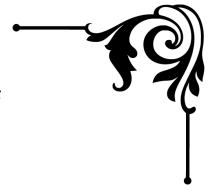
Occasionally, families will take this final Good-Bye Time to incorporate family or religious rituals or readings, including:

- Special readings or verses
- Rituals you and your pet did to say "I love you"
- A candle lighting tribute
- Reading of special poems and remembrances
- Sharing pictures or videos of your pet and your family

The following rituals are important to me and will be included in our final Good-Bye Time together: _____



Memorials



Making a decision on memorial products is a personal process. This will be reflective of the life shared with your pet, your lifestyle, your personal style, and those items that are reflective of your pet's personality. It's also important to take into consideration where your memorial pieces will go in your home or yard. You may even consider, if you are fortunate to have a large pet family, a memorial option where all the pets can be together.

Memorial products we offer include:

- Clay Paw prints
- Urns
- Jewelry items

Other memorial options you might consider:

- Rocks or garden flagstones
- Planting of trees, flowers, or bushes
- A donation drive for a local shelter in memory of your pet
- Framed photographs or verses that remind you of your beloved pet

My desired memorial options to remember my pet are: _____

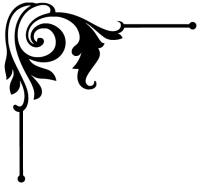
Consider what you think of when reflecting on your pet's life:

- A nickname - "Our little Buddy-Wuddy" or "Whit" _____
- A saying - "Hiding socks in heaven" or "Our First Born" _____

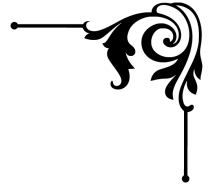
- Dates – Birth or Adoption date to Death date _____
- Other _____

*note: urn choice will affect space for sayings, our basic urn accommodates 9 characters on the first line and 14 characters on the second line.

These decisions can be challenging, please feel free to talk to our staff about your pet's End-of-Life walk and how we can help facilitate your wishes.



A Tribute to My Pet's Life



Pet's Name: _____

Birth/Adoption Date: _____

Date of Death: _____

Where our life started together: _____

Nickname: _____

Pet Parents: _____

Siblings – pet and human: _____

Favorite Toy(s): _____

Favorite Activity: _____

Least Favorite Thing: _____

Other Friends: _____

Favorite Place to Sleep: _____

Favorite Food: _____

Favorite Memories: _____

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