



CAYMAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Modern veterinary medicine ... Old fashioned care.

Saying Goodbye...

Pet ownership is a rewarding, loving partnership that many of us have been lucky to be a part of. These partnerships can last from just a few short days into many, many years, and the impact our pets have is lasting.

This is why it is that much harder to say good bye when the time comes. At the Cayman Animal Hospital we understand the difficult choices our clients have to make, and strive to make the decision process as stress-free and painless as possible for both the owners and patients.

There will always be a member of our team available to talk to you and answer any questions you may have or simply just to listen.

Once a decision has been made we shall do our very best for the welfare of your pet, but we also take care of the needs of you and your family.

Some clients may prefer to think about and discuss the options for cremation or burial before the event, (a handout has been included detailing all of these) allowing themselves to then concentrate solely on saying good bye to a treasured friend on the day.

What to expect on the day.

Your pet may or may not have a light sedative prior to Euthanasia, this depends on the medical condition of your pet.

We will place an intravenous catheter so we have access to a vein, we may take your pet into another room to do this, your pet will then be returned to you. By placing a catheter it means you are free to hold and cuddle your pet as you see fit.

Once you are ready, we administer an overdose of general anaesthesia, your pet will gently fall asleep.

Occasionally when they are unconscious or after they have already passed, they may gasp, or their muscles twitch. They are not aware of this and certainly cannot feel it. Their eyes will not close naturally, and they may occasionally pass motions.

You can spend time with your pet afterwards, we understand how this time is unique to each and every one of our clients and we never judge, most of us have gone through the exact same thing with our own pets and can offer you any support you may feel you need.



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Collecting your pet's ashes.

For those of you who decide on individual cremation, you will need to return to the surgery to collect your pet's ashes. Please be mindful that emotions may resurface and this may be a trying task. Our staff will be on hand to help you. You may want to call ahead to see if we are quiet, this will give you the best possible chance of privacy.

For those of you with children.

For some children this may be their first experience of loss. Some parents prefer their children to not be present, but would still like them to feel part of the process in the hope it will help them come to terms with the loss of a family pet. Children may want to draw a picture for their dog or cat, or write a letter that can then be buried or cremated with them.

How to grieve.

There is no specific rule or time limit on grieving for your pet, some owners can feel embarrassed or ashamed of the feeling they have, and the natural need to grieve for your pet is overlooked. Grief is a tough journey to walk and it's natural to go through the same emotional transitions as one does at the loss of a close relative or friend - anger, frustration, guilt and sadness. In some ways it's never something we truly get over, but learn to think of the happier moments, whilst the loss doesn't hurt so much.

The following is the address for a website dedicated to the grief of losing a beloved pet.

<http://petloss.com>

 Remember - the pain will pass, but until it does wear it like a badge of honour - it means you loved them and that is a precious thing indeed....