# PRE-PLANNING & PET AFTERCARE GUIDE

**Caring for the Final Goodbye** 





**Pet loss** is one of the most difficult life events for families. Whether it is sudden or expected, it can take weeks or even months to adjust to life without your family member.

For more info on Grief Resources, scan the QR code or search: bit.ly/38Dvw4a

If your pet dies in your home,

there are options to consider. Whether you simply want the body to be removed from your home, or you wish to permanently memorialize your pet in some special way, the choice is yours.

For more info if your pet dies at home, scan the QR Code or search: bit.ly/3mnBn13



For more information on grief support, contact info@pcscontact.com

### Know when it's time Evaluating your pet's quality of life.

Start by seeking guidance from your veterinarian to know when the time is right or to prepare for the right time.

#### **Recommended monitoring...**

- Maintain a log of your pet's health history, noting declining mobility and comfort. A good idea is to look at videos or photos from your pet's younger days or before they were ill.
- Keep a list of the things your pet likes to do: such as going on walks, running in the park or around the yard, or climbing the stairs. If these things are difficult or painful or they no longer enjoy these daily favorites, it may be time to discuss or prepare for end of life.
- Record good days and bad days in your journal. Watch for trends that will help guide you to prepare for the next steps.





## **Euthanasia** What to expect.

Euthanasia in animals is intended to end life when a pet is suffering and there is little or no hope of recovery from illness or injury. This is a very difficult decision to make as a pet owner, and knowing what to expect can help alleviate some of the stress involved.

- Your veterinarian can help to answer any questions you may have.
- Ask about the vet's process during the euthanasia and be prepared to sign a consent form before your vet can proceed.
- Decide whether you would like to be present during the procedure.
- Discuss the aftercare options for your pet with your veterinarian or contact Pet Cremation Services directly with questions.

#### What Happens During Euthanasia?

Euthanasia is a two-step process, that will be handled with care and compassion by your veterinarian.

- Your pet will be given a sedative to make them feel sleepy and to reduce anxiety.
- Your vet will then administer a fast-acting euthanasia solution that will stop the heart from beating.
- Rest assured, your pet will not be aware this is happening and will not feel any pain or stress during the procedure.

#### What Happens Next?

Pet cremation continues to be the leading choice of families who experience the loss of a four-legged family member, with **over 90% of people choosing to cremate their pet versus burial.** 

**Cremation** What's right for my pet and my family?

#### What is Pet Cremation?

Like human cremation, pet cremation uses high heat to reduce the pet's body to cremated remains, also known as ashes. While dog, cat and full body cremation for equine and large animals are the most common, you can cremate nearly any pet.

#### **Types of Cremation**

The type of cremation you choose for your pet will depend primarily on whether you wish to get your pet's ashes back.

- **Communal** - Pets are placed together into a crematory and cremated remains are not returned to the family.
- **Partitioned** More than one pet is placed in the crematory with physical separation between them. The cremated remains of the individual pets are then returned to the respective family.
- Private Only one pet is placed in the crematory chamber, the family may choose to be present, and the remains are returned to the family.

With all of our cremations, we take extraordinary care to ensure that the final goodbye is done with dignity and compassion, in a way that helps you to remember and celebrate your life together.

#### How Do I Know What's Right for My Family?

As with any end-of-life service, what's right for your family will be personal, based on cost and access to either a pet cemetery or pet cremation services close to you. Oftentimes, pet cremation is the most convenient option — as it's typically more affordable and widely accessible while still allowing you to memorialize your pet and help you celebrate your life together.

#### How Do I Know If I'm Getting My Pet Back?

If you choose a partitioned or private cremation, our caring and compassionate drivers will return your pet's cremains to you in a timely manner, following our strict and respectful code of ethics. In order to ensure you receive your pet's remains, a stainless steel disk around the size of a quarter with a unique number will stay with your pet throughout the cremation process and final delivery back to you.

#### **NOTES + MEDICAL HISTORY**

Prescribed Medication	Date
Signs of declining health	
Things we're worried about	
Important Phone Numbers	
Veterinarian:	
Pet Cremation Services:	

**Columbus** 888 Frank Road, Columbus, OH 43223 614.272.6550

#### Wickliffe

29113 Anderson Road, Wickliffe, OH 44092 440.347.0950

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