



Euthanasia A time to say goodbye

Making the decision to say goodbye to a dearly loved pet is often described as one of the hardest choices an animal lover can make. There are usually several, often contradicting, factors to take into account, not least the pet's quality of life. Age, other illnesses, finances and time commitment all influence a decision, but eventually it always boils down to 'Is your pet still enjoying life?'

It is important to discuss all the options with your vet, and don't be afraid to ask for more information if you need it. Ideally plan ahead, no one wants to dwell on sad thoughts, but if you have an elderly pet take some time as a family to decide what you want to happen. Would your pet be less stressful at home? There is usually an additional charge for this but worth considering. What about afterwards? For small animals burial at home is an option, but more usually they go to a crematorium. You could get their ashes home to bury or scatter. Alternatively some owners prefer to remember them by planting a tree, or getting a photo/painting commissioned. There is no right or wrong answer as all families are individual and what is important is what is right for you.

Finally remember to grieve, don't be ashamed of your love for your companion. Take some time, and if necessary speak to a bereavement counselor. Don't underestimate how important your pet was to your family and don't be embarrassed to cry.

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