

FAQ ON PET EUTHANASIA

Our beloved pets leave pawprints on our hearts, and just like you, we have had to accompany our own to the end of their journey.

Our love of animals is what has led our veterinary team to work with them, through the best of times and the toughest... Our hearts go out to you. It is natural to have many questions as we approach our pet's last days.



HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO SAY GOODBYE?

This decision requires courage, love, and perspective at a time when we are least likely to be objective. Your veterinary team is here to advise you. You can visit euthabag.com to find tools to help guide you.

Quality of life is much more than a question of appetite. It should assess mobility, mood, hygiene, sleep, and the level of interaction your pet seeks. It is about whether your pet's joy outweighs their struggle. Your family's quality of life is also important and should be considered.

You can request a quality-of-life or pre-euthanasia appointment with your veterinary practice to help assess your pet's situation and discuss aftercare options.

SHOULD I SCHEDULE IN ADVANCE, OR CAN I WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE?

There is no definitive right or wrong answer in this situation. However, it's important to understand that without a plan, your pet's condition could decline suddenly and severely, requiring immediate assistance. If you wish to ensure that your pet's final moments are calm and under controlled circumstances — perhaps

with treats and the presence of friends or family—it's essential to plan ahead. Remember, you are not deciding WHETHER your pet leaves but HOW they will depart. Additionally, if your pet is stressed easily, you can ask your vet for oral calming medication to administer before the final appointment.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING THE EUTHANASIA APPOINTMENT?

1. A member of our team will settle you and your pet into a consultation room.
2. You will communicate your preferences regarding the aftercare of your pet's body: cremation, aquamation, or burial (based on local ordinances), and any keepsakes you wish to have.
3. You will be asked to sign a document confirming your consent for your pet's euthanasia. You may pay at that time or arrange to pay in advance if you prefer.
4. The actual euthanasia process involves two steps. First, the veterinarian administers medications to relieve stress and pain. You will then have roughly 5 to 20 minutes to spend with your pet while they relax and get relief.
5. Once your pet is calm and comfortable, a large dose of anesthesia will be

administered, resulting in a deep, painless sleep and a smooth transition to peaceful death. The veterinarian will then confirm that your companion has passed away.

6. You are invited to remain in the room with your pet afterward to decompress—it is normal to experience overwhelming emotions during this time. Once you feel ready to leave, the veterinary team will wrap your companion and prepare them for the aftercare you have chosen. Options for transport include a dignified body bag like **EUTHABAG**, which may be requested in advance, or a plastic bag.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO THE APPOINTMENT?

We encourage you to bring anything that brings comfort to you and your pet—like blankets, toys, or favorite snacks—while you spend meaningful time together before your pet drifts off to sleep. It's also helpful to have supportive people with you during this time. If you'd like to personalize it at home, feel free to request the **EUTHABAG** before your appointment. It can also be done the same day, while the comfort medications take effect. Writing or drawing can help your family create a heartfelt ritual, keeping the connection with your furry friend alive.

WHAT IF I DECIDE AT THE LAST MINUTE THAT I CAN'T BE IN THE ROOM DURING THE EUTHANASIA?

Being present in your loved one's final moments can be overwhelming. You are welcome to leave the room at any time and return whenever you feel ready.

HOW DO I MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT MY FURRY FAMILY MEMBER?

Seek ways to transform your sadness into sweet memories that will honor the love you shared. Writing a letter, lighting a candle, playing music, or gathering in a place that your pet loved can bring your family together. Numerous resources are available, including in-person and online counselling or support groups aplb.org is a helpful resource. You are not alone.

The decision to spare your pet from pain, anxiety or loss of dignity is the greatest gift of love. Feelings of guilt often reside at the intersection of love and grief. This decision, one that only you can make for your furry companion, is an immense act of kindness. By preventing or ending their suffering, you may begin to experience your own pain, which takes courage. Ask yourself what you would want them to do for you if you were in their place.



If It Should Be

*If it should be that I grow weak
And pain should keep me from my sleep
Then you must do what must be done
For this last battle that cannot be won.*

*You will be sad, I understand
Don't let your grief then stay your hand
For this day more than all the rest
Your love for me must stand the test.*

*We've had so many happy years
What is to come can hold no fears.
You'd not want me to suffer so
The time has come, please let me go.*

*Take me where my needs they'll tend
And please stay with me until the end.
Hold me firm and speak to me
Until my eyes no longer see.*

*I know in time that you will see
The kindness that you did for me.
Although my tail its last has waved,
From pain and suffering, I've been saved.*

*Please do not grieve it must be you
Who had this painful thing to do.
We've been so close, we two, these years.
Don't let your heart hold back its tears.*

- Anonymous

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Saying goodbye,
what you need to know
on pet euthanasia

