

Pet End-of-Life Planning Guide

Preparing for Difficult Decisions Before a Crisis Occurs

Losing a beloved pet is one of the hardest experiences families face. Planning ahead can reduce stress and help ensure your pet's final days are handled according to your wishes.

1. Pet Information

Pet Name: _____

Species/Breed: _____

Age: _____

2. Understanding End-of-Life Decisions

Emergency Situations: • Difficulty breathing • Severe trauma • Uncontrolled bleeding • Seizures that will not stop • Collapse and inability to stand • Severe pain that cannot be controlled	Age-Related or Chronic Illness: • Cancer • Kidney disease • Heart disease • Arthritis/mobility problems • Cognitive dysfunction • Advanced age
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3. Quality-of-Life Assessment (Complete Regularly)

Check all that currently apply:

- ☐ Eating willingly ☐ Drinking adequately ☐ Pain controlled
☐ Moving comfortably ☐ Enjoying favorite activities
☐ Urinating/defecating normally
☐ Good days outnumber bad days
☐ Interacting with family members

My Quality-of-Life Thresholds (What would tell me it is time?):

4. End-of-Life Preferences

- ☐ Pursue all available treatment options
☐ Pursue treatment within a set budget Budget Limit: \$_____
☐ Comfort care only
☐ Humane euthanasia

5. Euthanasia Preferences

Preferred Location:

- ☐ Veterinary clinic ☐ At-home euthanasia ☐ Depends on circumstances

Why I Prefer This Option:

6. Important Contacts

At-Home Provider: Name: Phone: Website:
Primary Emergency Hospital: Name: Address: Phone:

7. After-Passing Preferences

Burial: ☐ Home burial ☐ Pet cemetery Cremation: ☐ Private cremation ☐ Communal cremation ☐ Undecided	Memorial Preferences: ☐ Clay paw print ☐ Ink paw print ☐ Fur clipping ☐ Nose print
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8. Family Participation

- ☐ I would like to be present
- ☐ I would prefer not to be present
- ☐ Family members present
- ☐ Children present
- ☐ Spiritual or religious support

Important Notes for My Veterinary Team:

Remember: There is no single 'right' decision. Whether a pet passes naturally, receives hospice care, or is humanely euthanized, the goal is to minimize suffering and provide comfort, dignity, and love.