

# The Pet Parent's Caregiver Guide

Information When You Need It Most



**King**  
Austin, TX



**Lilu**  
Yorba Linda, CA



This Caregiver Guide was thoughtfully prepared to provide information and answers to questions most commonly asked throughout the hospice journey. We understand this is uncharted territory for many pet parents and we are here to help you through this.

**My Lap of Love veterinarian:** \_\_\_\_\_

Reach out to us as often as needed. A hospice nurse is available to help weekdays until 6:00 pm ET. Please email us at [HospiceCareNurse@LapofLove.com](mailto:HospiceCareNurse@LapofLove.com) with questions and updates, or to let us know if you prefer to schedule a time to talk on the phone.



As part of our hospice family, you can visit our Hospice Resource Center, which provides a wealth of hospice-related information, answers to common questions, and a digital version of this Caregiver Guide. Scan the code or go to [Info.LapofLove.com/Pet-Hospice](https://Info.LapofLove.com/Pet-Hospice) to access the Resource Center.

To schedule future visits, please contact **(855) 933-5683**. Our support team is available to take your call 7 days a week, until 11:00 pm ET.



**Lap of Love Pet Loss Support Services:**

- Website: [Info.LapofLove.com/Loss](https://Info.LapofLove.com/Loss)
- Email: [PetLossSupport@LapofLove.com](mailto:PetLossSupport@LapofLove.com)
- Phone: (855) 352-5683



**The Grey Muzzle (hospice) Amazon Product Store:**  
[Amazon.com/Shop/DrMaryGardner](https://Amazon.com/Shop/DrMaryGardner)

**Important contacts:** \_\_\_\_\_

Lap of Love veterinarians had the honor of assisting the beloved pets featured in this guide.



# What to Expect from Veterinary Hospice Care



Veterinary hospice for dogs and cats is a hands-on, medically-supervised approach to providing palliative care for senior or terminally ill pets, through the support and guidance of an interdisciplinary team. Improving a pet's overall quality of life is the primary focus, until we are able to provide a peaceful passing or a natural death occurs. **Veterinary hospice focuses solely on providing comfort, not curing.**

## Primary Goals of the Hospice Journey

- To develop an individualized care and comfort plan for your pet
- To manage symptoms (rather than treat them) and improve overall quality of life
- To utilize a multimodal approach that is continually adjusted based on a pet's needs and the updates you provide us
- To educate owners on common hospice conditions and medications
- To provide both emotional support and guidance throughout this journey

## After Our Visit

A hospice nurse will be your primary source of support during this hospice journey with us, no matter how brief or long that is. They will be in touch soon after your visit, to answer questions, help with prescriptions if needed, and make sure you're comfortable with everything that was discussed during our appointment.

Along with your Lap of Love veterinarian, they will help adjust your pet's care plan when necessary based on changing symptoms and the frequent updates you provide. Because veterinary hospice is not a 24/7 service, it's important that we try to stay proactive in an attempt to avoid any urgent situations, when possible.



# Planning Ahead



While it's extremely difficult to think about life without our pets, thoughtful and proactive planning can help alleviate some of the expected anticipatory stress and anxiety that commonly accompanies this time. This can help allow us to live in the moment a little easier and fully enjoy the time we still have together.

## Ask yourself these questions:

- How do I envision the last moments I'll share with my pet?
  - Where do I want it to take place?
  - Who should be there?
  - What special things do I want to do or have on hand?
  - What treats or special foods do I want to give my pet?
- Do I understand the process of an assisted, peaceful passing (euthanasia)?
  - Are there any specific questions I want to ask?
- Do I understand the process of a natural, unassisted passing?
  - What specific processes should I expect and prepare myself for?
- What do I prefer for my pet's afterlife care?
  - Do I understand the difference between private and communal cremation and what each entails?
  - Is home burial an option for me?
  - Are there any additional memorials I'd like after my pet passes?
- Do I have a plan in place if an unexpected or emergent situation arises?
- Am I aware of and prepared for associated costs that come with all of the above?



**Emma**  
Chicago, IL

# Quality of Life



Assessing your pet's quality of life (QOL) can be difficult. It's subjective and highly dependent on your dog or cat's specific condition, their personality, and your own beliefs. Much like us, every pet will experience and react to changes in their body differently depending on the nature of their specific disease process or situation.

Several QOL resources are available on our website to guide you, including printable versions of our Quality-of-Life Scale and Daily Assessment tools, which appear on pages 4-6 of this guide.

Many pet parents find it beneficial to consider different perspectives, so it's often helpful to allow multiple family members to complete a QOL assessment. Everyone should do the assessment on their own and then come together to discuss their results. You may also consider asking a trusted friend or pet sitter who knows your pet well to join the conversation.

**The simple act of  
caring is heroic.**

— Edward Albert



**Stoli**  
Tampa, FL



# Lap of Love Pet Quality-of-Life Scale

When evaluating the quality of life of your pet, personalized patient and family information is important when reaching an educated, informed, and supported choice that fits not only your pet's medical condition, but also your wishes and expectations. In short, quality of life applies not only to the pet, it also applies to you!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## SCORE EACH SUBSECTION ON A SCALE OF 0-2:

0 = agree with statement (describes my pet)  
1 = some changes seen  
2 = disagree with statement (does not describe my pet)

### SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Desire to be with the family has not changed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Interacts normally with family or other pets (i.e., no increased aggression or other changes)

### HEALTH

- \_\_\_\_\_ No changes in breathing or panting patterns
- \_\_\_\_\_ No outward signs of pain (excessive panting, pacing, and whining are most commonly seen)
- \_\_\_\_\_ No pacing around the house
- \_\_\_\_\_ My pet's overall condition has not changed recently

### MENTAL HEALTH

- \_\_\_\_\_ Enjoys normal play activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Still dislikes the same thing (i.e., still hates the mailman = 0, or doesn't bark at the mailman anymore = 2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ No outward signs of stress or anxiety
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does not seem confused or apathetic
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nighttime activity is normal, no changes seen

### NATURAL FUNCTIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Appetite has stayed the same
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drinking has stayed the same
- \_\_\_\_\_ Normal urination habits
- \_\_\_\_\_ Normal bowel movement habits
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ability to ambulate (walk around) has stayed the same

### RESULTS

\_\_\_\_\_ Total score added from each section

- 0-8: Quality of life is most likely adequate. No medical intervention is required yet, but guidance from your veterinarian may help you identify signs to look for in the future.
- 9-16: Quality of life is questionable and medical intervention is suggested. Your pet would certainly benefit from veterinary oversight and guidance to evaluate the disease process he/she is experiencing.
- 17-32: Quality of life is a definite concern. Changes will likely become more progressive and more severe in the near future. Veterinary guidance will help you better understand the end stages of your pet's disease process in order to make a more informed decision of whether to continue hospice care or elect peaceful euthanasia.



Scan the code or visit [Info.LapofLove.com/QOLscale](http://Info.LapofLove.com/QOLscale) to complete interactive versions of the tools on pages 4-5.

# Lap of Love

## Pet Family Concerns

**SCORE EACH ITEM  
ON A SCALE OF 0-2:**

0 = I am not concerned at this time  
1 = There is some concern  
2 = I am concerned about this

### I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING THINGS:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| _____ Pet suffering                           | _____ Desire to perform nursing care for your pet                 |
| _____ Pet dying alone                         | _____ Ability to perform nursing care for your pet                |
| _____ Not knowing the right time to euthanize | _____ Coping with loss  |
| _____ Concern for other household animals     | _____ Concern for other members of the family<br>(i.e., children) |

### RESULTS

\_\_\_\_\_ Total score

- 0-4: Your concerns are minimal at this time. You may understand what lies ahead from the passing of a previous pet, or you may not want to face the inevitable loss of your pet. As difficult as it is to consider these things, now is the time to evaluate your concerns and limitations.
- 5-9: Your concerns are mounting. Prepare for the changes ahead by educating yourself on your pet's condition. Consult your veterinarian and ask if they can recommend reputable online sources of information.
- 10-16: Your concerns about the changes in your pet are valid. Remember to value your quality of life as a caregiver, too. Now is the time to build a support system around you. Veterinary guidance will help you prepare for the medical changes in your pet while counselors and other health professionals can help you with anticipatory grief.

### DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW, AND THE ENTIRE QUALITY-OF-LIFE SCALE, WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN

Below are some open-ended questions that help gauge your family's time, emotional, and (when appropriate, financial) budgets:

1. Have you ever been through the loss of a pet before? If so, what was your experience (good or bad, and why)?
2. What do you hope the life expectancy of your pet will be? What do you think it will be?
3. What is the ideal situation you wish for your pet's end of life experience? (at home, pass away in her sleep, etc.)

#### **Suggestions on using this quality-of-life scale:**

1. Complete the scale at different times of the day, note circadian fluctuations in well-being. (We find most pets tend to do better during the day and worse at night.)
2. Request multiple members of the family complete the scale; compare observations.
3. Take periodic photos of your pet to help you remember their physical appearance.

#### **Resources:**

1. AAHA/AAFP Pain Management Guidelines for Dogs and Cats, [www.aahanet.org/Library/PainMgmt.aspx](http://www.aahanet.org/Library/PainMgmt.aspx)

We encourage you to utilize these tools to assess your pet's quality of life every few days or as needed.

# Lap of Love Daily Assessment

Date	Mobility	Nutrition	Hydration	Interaction/ Attitude	Elimination	Favorite Things	Total & Daily Notes

Use the key factors of quality of life below to help assess your pet's condition. Use the Daily Diary to keep track of your pet's progress. Fill in the appropriate number for each category and then add the numbers from each category for that day. The maximum score is 12 and you can determine your own scale. You can even add categories that pertain to your pet's particular situation. For example, "Respiratory Rate" if your pet suffers from heart failure or lung cancer. You can give half or quarter points if appropriate.

## MOBILITY

- 2 Good Mobility** – No difficulty getting around, enjoys walks and going outside
- 1 Poor Mobility** – Difficulty getting up, hard to get in position to eliminate, short walks only
- 0 Bare Minimum Mobility** – Needs assistance, pain medication/anti-inflammatory medications do not help.

## NUTRITION

- 2 Good Appetite**
- 1 Poor Appetite** – Hand feeding, needs enticing
- 0 No Appetite**

## HYDRATION

- 2 Adequate Intake**
- 1 Poor Intake** or increased in some patients with particular diseases
- 0 Requires Clysis** (subcutaneous fluids)

## INTERACTION/ATTITUDE

- 2 Interacts normally** with family and other pets
- 1 Some interaction** with family and other pets
- 0 Hides** in the closet or under the bed

## ELIMINATION

- 2 Normal** urination and/or defecation
- 1 Reduced/Irregular** urination and/or defecation
- 0 None**

## FAVORITE THINGS

- 2 Normal** favorite activities, hobbies, etc.
- 1 Decrease** in doing their favorite things
- 0 No interest** in their favorite things

## EXAMPLE SCALE:

- 9 – 12 Everything is okay
- 6 – 8 Requires intervention
- < or = 5 Consider humane tranquilization and euthanasia



Scan the code or visit [Info.LapofLove.com/Daily-Assessment](http://Info.LapofLove.com/Daily-Assessment) to download a copy of this assessment from our website.



# How Will I Know It's Time?



Every owner, pet, condition, and situation is unique. There may be many variables associated with what would constitute an acceptable quality of life for both you and your pet. It's important to consider what future needs your pet may have that would be manageable for you, as well as what situations you would find extremely difficult to manage.

Your hospice team can help identify circumstances that, if encountered, may mean it's time to reassess the concerns, goals, and wishes you have for your pet and their palliative care plan. Making a list of these things, your "lines in the sand," so to speak, can help you better determine where you and your pet are on your hospice journey. Referring back to it as needed can help you objectively assess your pet's quality of life on a routine basis.

For more help on this topic, please visit [LapofLove.com/How-Will-I-Know-It-Is-Time](https://LapofLove.com/How-Will-I-Know-It-Is-Time) and watch our video "Knowing When It's Time to Say Goodbye to Your Pet."

## Understanding "Natural Death"



While our philosophy at Lap of Love centers around a pet's quality of life, we also focus on their quality of death, which is just as important. Most of us hope when our pet is ready to leave us, they quietly pass in their sleep. This occasionally happens, although it is quite uncommon. The process of a natural death is seldom a swift, solitary event. The peacefulness and length of the experience will depend heavily on your pet's specific diagnosis and symptoms. If you choose this path, intensive, round-the-clock home care is critical to prevent suffering and meet your pet's needs right up until the end. It requires great dedication and preparedness from everyone in the home. Your Lap of Love veterinarian can help you decide if this is the right choice for your pet and for your family.

Sophie  
Media, PA



# Providing Care at Home



Our role is to help prepare you to provide for your pet's needs in the home. This is a big responsibility that should not be taken lightly. While many pet parents are willing to accept this challenge, it's ok if you think this may be too much to take on. Consider your individual circumstances when deciding what degree of home care you can provide. Caregiver fatigue is real and something to both acknowledge and consider, as well.

## Things to think about:

- Can I safely administer medications on schedule and without added stress for my pet and myself?
- Can I make the suggested modifications to my pet's environment?
- Am I able to purchase some of the items that may have been recommended?
- How much time can I spend tending to my pet's daily needs and care?
- Who in my family will be able to help me with these tasks?

Our many tips, tricks, ideas, and suggestions for providing home care, including ways to recognize pain and other common, end-of-life symptoms, will hopefully give some assurance and comfort that you are providing the best possible in-home care, ensuring your pet's quality of life is the best it can possibly be.

During our visit, your Lap of Love veterinarian will discuss signs and symptoms to watch for that are specific to your pet's condition. Additional educational resources associated with common animal illnesses and symptom management can be found on Lap of Love's website at [LapofLove.com/Resource-Center](https://LapofLove.com/Resource-Center).

Your hospice care nurse will also be an invaluable resource to you, providing additional support, guidance, and assistance as it's needed during your pet's hospice journey with us.



Scan the code or visit [Info.LapofLove.com/Pet-Hospice](https://Info.LapofLove.com/Pet-Hospice) for even more resources available exclusively to our hospice families.



**Layla**  
St. Pete, FL

# Recognizing Signs of Pain



As your pet's condition progresses, it's important to recognize the unique ways animals exhibit pain. The signs can be subtle and quite different from how people express their discomfort. These signs can also indicate anxiety, which is a form of emotional pain. Keep in mind, there is no substitute for being familiar with an individual pet in order to recognize how they uniquely show their pain.

## Common Signs of Pain in Geriatric and Terminally-Ill Pets

- Increased panting
- Pacing
- Squinting
- Whining
- Growling, snarling, or snapping
- Tucked tail
- Abnormal gait
- Licking lips or drooling
- Changes in appetite and thirst
- Incontinence
- Difficulty sleeping through the night
- Resting in unusual places or postures
- Flinching when touched
- Changes in family interaction
- Loss of interest or decreased interest in normal activities

## Pain in Dogs

A dog's reaction to pain is often dependent upon personality, the level of pain experienced, and the cause of the pain. The characteristics listed above do not include everything that you may see, but the list gives you a general idea of what to look for.

## Pain in Cats

As a general rule, cats do an excellent job of hiding their pain and signs may be even more subtle than with dogs. Additional indications of pain in cats include: hiding, increased breathing and/or heart rate, eye squinting, and dilated or constricted pupils. Surprisingly, an increase in purring can also be a sign of pain, especially if other signs are also present.



## Pain Scales for Dogs and Cats

Scan the code or visit [Info.LapofLove.com/Pain](https://info.lapoflove.com/Pain) for further reading on canine- and feline-specific signs of pain. You'll also find links to access commonly-used pain scales for dogs and cats, which are extremely helpful in assessing your pet's pain level.

**The closest thing to being cared for is to care for someone else.**

— Carson McCullers

# Helpful Over-the-Counter Items



- ☐ Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) - for itching, allergic reactions, and calming
- ☐ Famotidine (Pepcid®) - helps reduce the production and pH of stomach acid
- ☐ Loperamide HCl (Imodium®) - for sudden episodes of diarrhea
- ☐ Psyllium (Metamucil®) - to improve and firm stool consistency
- ☐ Polyethylene glycol (Miralax®) - helps with short term constipation
- ☐ Omeprazole (Prilosec OTC®) - helps reduce the production of stomach acid
- ☐ Pumpkin (plain, canned) - helps with episodes of diarrhea or constipation
- ☐ Yunnan Baiyao - helps with bleeding disorders (often found online)
- ☐ Melatonin - helps provide more calm, restful sleep
- ☐ Meclizine (Bonine®) - for motion sickness and dizziness
- ☐ GenTeal® Tears - water-based eye lubricant for dry eyes and difficulty blinking

Always consult a veterinarian about proper dosing before administering medications to your pet.

## Instructions and To Do List



---

---

---

---

---



# Suggestions for Administering Oral Medications



Tips to help mask the sometimes bitter taste of medications:

## Create a treat ball around a tablet or capsule

1. Form a small ball around the pill with a soft treat:
  - cream cheese
  - squeeze cheese (in a can)
  - peanut or almond butter
  - butter
  - liver (Braunschweiger) sausage
  - canned, pâté-style pet food
  - cold baby food (all meat, stage 2)
  - Marshmallow Fluff®
2. Freeze the pill ball for 15 minutes to increase firmness and mask the smell and taste of the medication.
3. First offer your pet a bit of the plain food. Then offer the medicated ball. Follow with a bit of plain food.

If the above process doesn't work, try a commercially-available pilling treat, pill paste, or a "pill gun."

## Empty the contents of a capsule, crush a pill, or hide liquids

1. Mix medicine in sweet foods such as a small bit of:
  - pure honey
  - 100% maple syrup
  - vanilla yogurt
2. Disguise medicine in warm, savory-smelling items such as:
  - juice from a can of tuna, sardines, or chicken (packed in water)
  - baby food (all meat, stage 2)
3. Talk to your hospice nurse about flavored medication and alternate dosing options, such as transdermal creams.

## Try to:

- Avoid mixing medications into actual meals, so as not to deter regular eating.
- Vary your routine slightly (time, place, etc.) so your pet doesn't pick up on cues
- Position your pet with their back toward/against you when giving medications that are not hidden in food (i.e., with a "pill gun").
- Be sure your pet is sitting or standing on a surface with good traction, like a yoga mat.
- Gently blow or flick a few drops of water at your pet's nose after giving medications. This encourages them to lick and thus swallow.

# Medication Chart




Medication Name	Date	Directions	Time Given	Time Given	Time Given	Time Given

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 Please contact a hospice nurse approximately **7 days** in advance before running out of any important medications. Those that require authorization through an online pharmacy or are specially compounded may require more time.

# Top Hospice Suggestions



## For General Mobility

- Place yoga mats or rugs with rubber backing in areas most frequented
- Keep nails and the fur between paw pads well trimmed
- Use toe grips, such as Dr. Buzby's ToeGrips® or a pad powder
- Use a full body Help 'Em Up® Harness or hind end sling
- Use gripping socks or boots
- Add graduating levels to spaces where your pet jumps up and down
- Use ramps to help your pet going in and out of elevated areas
- Use self-adhering, non-slip treads on stairs
- Use baby gates to block access to undesired and unsafe areas
- Consider using an Assisi LOOP® for pain and inflammation (tPEMF™ Therapy)

## For General Comfort

- Elevate food and water bowls to shoulder level
- Use litter boxes with lower sides for easier access
- Offer pillows when resting to help elevate and support your pet's head
- Use soft but firm memory foam bedding

## For General Calming

- Use an Adaptil® calming pheromone diffuser or collar for dogs
- Use a Feliway® calming pheromone diffuser or spray for cats
- Use Rescue Remedy® for pets in water bowls
- Use a white noise or sound machine
- Place night lights in areas where your pet sleeps at night

## For Incontinence

- Use a diaper (for girls) or wrap (for boys) at night
- Use disposable piddle pads or a mattress pad under your pet at night
- Place piddle pads under and around litter box areas
- Use a desk fan to keep air circulating and help prevent rashes
- Use baby wipes or dry shampoo and diaper rash cream to help keep your pet clean



Mia  
Lexington, KY

# Bucket List Do's and Don'ts



The best way to prepare for the loss of your pet is by treasuring the remaining time you have left. Most of us are familiar with a “bucket list” of activities and experiences to have before one passes. Consider making one for your pet and get started by checking off items today. In addition to keeping your pet happy, this will help you focus on making meaningful memories with your pet rather than just focusing on the medical care.

As you create a bucket list, be mindful of symptoms that may limit your pet's ability to engage in and enjoy certain activities. For instance, a pet that is struggling with mobility issues or cardiac or respiratory disease may not be capable of going for a long hike in the woods, even if it was much enjoyed during healthier years. Find creative ways to modify such activities so that your pet can enjoy the experience in a safe way. In the previous example, consider using a pet stroller for a walk in the park.

## Bucket List Ideas

- Family photo shoot with a professional photographer
- Throw a party - invite your pet's favorite humans (other than you) and furry friends
- Home cooked meal - keep in mind your pet's dietary needs and preferences may change with certain illnesses
- Teach your pet a new trick
- Plan a pet play date
- Play with a favorite toy
- Give your pet a massage
- Have a “Yes Day” - whatever your pet wants goes
- Take plenty of photos and selfies

If you plan to travel with your pet, consider limiting your destinations to populated areas that have emergency veterinary care nearby. Plan ahead and research the closest emergency facilities before your trip.

Whatever you choose, try to be flexible in your plans to accommodate your pet's needs and abilities that may change on a daily basis. If you are uncertain of what activities might be suitable for your pet, please ask your hospice care nurse who can help you choose enjoyable and sensible options.



# Anticipatory Grief



It's common for pet owners to experience anticipatory grief at this stage of their pet's journey. Anticipatory grief occurs prior to the loss of your pet. It consists of a range of emotions including fear, guilt, anxiety, frustration, and even anger. Anxiety surrounding the anticipation of death is normal, but allowing those feelings to overwhelm you can interfere with your ability to enjoy the precious remaining time you have with your pet.

Your emotional health is just as important as the physical needs of your pet. Take time to care for yourself. The grieving process often begins well before the loss of a pet and can continue for varying lengths of time afterward. There is no "normal, right, or wrong" way to process these emotions. Everyone processes them differently, in varying order, and at their own pace.

We offer anticipatory grief support group for individuals, families, and children who are going through this process and would like a safe space to share feelings with others who are experiencing it as well.



## Lap of Love Pet Loss Support Contacts

Phone: 855-352-5683

Email: [PetLossSupport@LapofLove.com](mailto:PetLossSupport@LapofLove.com)

Website: [Info.LapofLove.com/Loss](http://Info.LapofLove.com/Loss)

# Caregiver Fatigue and Burnout



Our pets give us unconditional love and devotion, and we want to be there for them in every way possible. In a perfect world, we would have unlimited resources to care for our pets indefinitely. Sadly, we don't live in a perfect world, and many caregivers feel the heavy burden of trying to do the "right thing" and be their best selves for their pets.

The immense weight of caring for a sick pet can result in: financial strain, mental foggy, emotional stress, physical exhaustion, and strained personal relationships. These must be considered when making care decisions. It's important to base your decisions on what's best for you and your pet's individual situation; no two are alike. Please know we understand and are here to support you.

# Preparing for a Euthanasia Appointment



This is a tough decision, one that no pet parent wants to make. We will be by your side, helping guide you through this process so that you can identify signs that your pet may be struggling. Using the quality of life tools and other resources provided in this booklet will help you avoid an emergency situation and offer a peaceful goodbye for your beloved pet.

Prior to this appointment, you might consider the following questions so that you can feel supported during this emotional time.

- Who should be present?
- Should your children be there?
- Where should you say goodbye?
- Does your pet have a favorite place?
- Do you want to have favorite toys, music, photos, and mementos in that space?
- Would you like to say a few words or recite a poem?
- What would be comforting to you?

## **To schedule a euthanasia appointment**

(a separate cost from hospice), please call Lap of Love's Support Center at **(855) 933-5683**.

Our Support Center is available 7 days a week, 365 days a year, from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm ET.

We will make every effort to accommodate same day appointment requests, but it is best to schedule 24–48 hours in advance. If it is outside our Support Center hours and your pet is in distress, please reach out to your nearest emergency clinic.



**Coco**  
Franklinville, NJ

# Honoring Your Pet



Memorializing your pet's life can be a meaningful way to cope with grief. Below are some suggestions for you to consider.

- **Have a ceremony**
  - Arrange a funeral through a pet-specific or perhaps a human funeral home
  - Host a wake for family and friends to gather and celebrate your pet's life
- **Create a memorial table**
  - Dedicate a space (small table, bookshelf) to display your pet's favorite toys, photos, mementos, and possibly your pet's ashes
- **Craft a memory**
  - Have jewelry made with a paw or nose print or your pet's DNA helix
  - Create a keepsake (necklace, sweater, belt) with your pet's fur
  - Incorporate your pet's ashes into an urn, jewelry, tattoo, or painting
  - Capture the unique beauty of your pet with a custom stuffed animal or photo blanket
  - Have your pet's ID tags made into a bracelet, necklace, or tattoo
  - Create a planter using your pet's collar
- **Write a gratitude list**
  - Make a list of all the things you did with your pet - experiences you enjoyed together and memories for which you're thankful
- **Pay it forward** - Honor your deceased pet by helping other animals in need
  - Donate to an animal-related cause in their memory
  - Volunteer at your local animal shelter or rescue



Visit our Pet Memorial Keepsakes site to see unique memorial items from carefully selected companies. Scan the code or go to [Info.LapofLove.com/Keepsakes](https://Info.LapofLove.com/Keepsakes)





How lucky I am to have something  
that makes saying goodbye so hard.

*Lap of Love* 

Veterinary Hospice & In-Home Euthanasia

[LapofLove.com](http://LapofLove.com)

**Smuckers**  
Denver, CO

