

## A Guide for Planning Ahead

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



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There are so many questions that may arise when preparing for your pet's final arrangements. We have prepared this guide to help you answer some of those questions. By filling out the following pages you will be well on your way to complete the final arrangements for your beloved and cherished pet.

If you so choose, you may make a copy of this completed guide and have it placed in your pet's file at your veterinarian's office. This way when the time comes your veterinarian will know what to do.

Planning ahead with Belspur Oaks Pet Crematory will give you both peace of mind knowing that your pet will be taken care of the upmost dignity in this great time of need.

We have over 21 years of experience in performing pet cremations. If you have any questions please give us a call or you may contact your veterinarian.

## **A Gentle Farewell**

Time passes far too quickly for those of us who have shared the joys of life and love with a trusted animal companion.

But this we all must face: That our mischievous kitten, playful pup of "Little orphaned animal" who bounded into our hearts and lives such a seemingly short time ago is a mortal creature just as we are.

Unexpected catastrophic illness or accidents may strike our pets in their youth or prime. If not that, the aging process marches on and takes its toll. Farewells become inevitable. And soon-too soon-it's time for us to part.

As the human guardians of our trusted animal companions, we accept the responsibility of caring for all their needs throughout their lives, from the moment they walk, hop, fly or bound into ours.

Through our mutual bonding, we come to know them well-through the expressions in their eyes, the position of their tails, the body movements they exhibit to gain our attention and capture our hearts.

Who else is better equipped, then, to determine with the help of a trusted veterinarian that it may be time for our beloved pet to exit this world with dignity and compassion when life becomes a burden or hurts too much.

Our familiarity with their personalities and knowledge of their unique characteristics make us the ones best able to speak for them in their final time of need-when the pain of living outweighs the pleasure of life.

# The Grieving Process

The death of a beloved pet can carry with it many of the same intense feelings of denial, anger, sadness, guilt and grief more typically associated with the loss of a human love. Adding to the difficulty of this time are the lack of formal customs, traditions or religious ceremonies to help provide closure and guide us through the grieving period.

Fortunately, today there seems to be a greater acceptance of the attachment we have for our pets and the subsequent grief we feel when they're no longer with us.

Pet grief experts and others widely agree that when an animal companion dies, the individual and other family members should allow themselves a time of bereavement and not feel ashamed by the intense feelings they may feel.

The grieving process is totally unique-no two people grieve a loss in the same way nor take the same amount of time to work through the grief, accept the loss and move on. Some people are able to return to their normal pattern of living within days, while others may take a year to lose the ache they feel whenever they are reminded of their loss.

During the bereavement process, accepting and releasing your feelings through healthy outlets such as crying and talking with an understanding friend, pet grief volunteer or professional can lead you closer to emotional healing than repressing your sorrow.

Be patient and kind with yourself. Give yourself time to work through your grief. Share your feelings with a trusted friend or someone who has also mourned the death of a beloved pet. "We remind people that it's perfectly OK not to feel OK."

Determining what to do with your pet's remains is another difficult aspect of your pet's passing. Again, this is a very personal decision to which there are no "right" or "wrong" answers.

The staff at Belspur Oaks Pet Crematory is here to help you with the final disposition of your beloved pet's remains. We can work with your veterinarian or you directly.

Currently arrangements are in place to go through your veterinarian's office. If you prefer you may bring your beloved pet's remains to our office.

For any questions pertaining to our services or products, please go to our website or you may call our office.

# Preplanning Guide Worksheet

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the pet parent of: \_\_\_\_\_

Herby request that Belspur Oaks Pet Crematory, Inc. handle the final deposition of my beloved pet's remains.

Private Cremation: Your pet will be cremated by itself and placed into our standard urn.

Communal Cremations: Your pet will be cremated with other pets. No remains will be returned to the owner.

Burial Service: Your pet will be buried at home by you.

Burial Service: Your pet will be buried at a pet cemetery of your choosing.

Casket: A casket will be needed.

Casket: A casket will not be needed.

Pet Burial Bag: A pet burial bag will be needed.

Pet Burial Bag: A pet burial bag will not be needed.

An Outdoor Marker:  Yes  No

Paw Print and Fur Clippings.

Decorative Pet Cremation Urn: Urn Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Personalization:  Yes  No

Pet Loss Items:  Yes  No If yes:  Adults  Children

Pet Jewelry Items: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

After this form is completed, make a copy and have your veterinarian place the copy in your pet's file.