



A Guide for Planning Ahead

My Pet's Name: _____



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We Understand and Are Here to Help You

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 completing 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 arrives, your veterinarian will know what to do.

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

The loss of a cherished and beloved pet is one of the most heartbreaking events animal lovers may experience in their lifetimes. In some cases, pet loss may be more emotional than losing a human companion or friend. So many emotions surround the loss of a beloved pet especially if the loss was sudden and unexpected, leaving the pet owner distraught and feeling out of sorts. On the other hand, the loss of a pet may be expected for several weeks or months before it actually occurs, possibly due to a long-term disease or ailment.

Whether the death of the pet was anticipated or was unexpected and happened suddenly, the loss of a pet is never easy.

It has been mainly through our own experiences with our pets and with those whom we serve in the pet community that we have designed this guide. We hope that you will find the information both helpful and informative.

For 25 years, Belspur Oaks Pet Crematory has been serving the veterinary and animal community on Florida's Gulf Coast by providing dignified after-care services that include pet cremations, grief resources and personalized memorial products.

If you have any questions, please give us a call, or you may contact your veterinarian.



Preparing for the Inevitable...

By Special Contributor
Barbara Bounds,
Belspur Oaks Pet Crematory

Invariably on any given day, evening or weekend, a call comes in from a distraught pet owner telling of the untimely death of his or her beloved pet. What makes it even more distressing is that the pet owner often does not know what to do once the pet has died. If the passing has occurred during normal business hours, the pet owners can usually call their veterinarians, who will then direct them to either bring the pets to their offices or take them directly to our pet crematory.

For those of you that have experienced this event, it can be heartbreaking, especially if the passing was sudden and unexpected.

Belspur Oaks Pet Crematory has devised a solution to this problem by creating "A Guide For Planning Ahead." This guide, which can be viewed and printed directly from our Web site, offers a pre-planning worksheet that, if executed properly, will put into place the pet owner's wishes for the final disposition of his or her pet when the animal has passed. Pre-planning eliminates additional anguish during a time that it is emotionally very painful.

In addition to this worksheet, information ranging from preparing for your pet's demise to dealing with the grieving process also is included. The guide also allows you to decide in advance on a meaningful way to permanently memorialize your pet, such as choosing an urn, casket or headstone.

It is recommended that, along with this planning guide, you include a quality photograph of your pet, the birth date or adoption date and the correct spelling of your pet's name.

Once the worksheet is completed, the pet owner can simply make copies and

give one to his or her veterinarian to place in the pet's file, so that when the time comes for the pet to pass, the stress of knowing what your wishes are will be minimized because all of the details are in place.

It also is suggested that the pet owner keep a copy of the worksheet at home in a file with other important paperwork, so that in the event that the information is needed, everyone in the household will know where to find it.

What does the "The Guide For Planning Ahead" cost the pet owner? Absolutely nothing. It has been developed and designed by Belspur Oaks to help the pet owner in the event of the pet's demise.

Filling out the guide is much like planning for the final transition of a human companion, which is usually done through a local funeral home.

Planning ahead will give you and your veterinarian the peace of mind of knowing that your pet will be taken care of with the upmost dignity when the time arises. It also will prevent any delays in taking care of your pet during the final disposition period, which can occur if the pet owner has not given any thought as to what should be done when the day finally arrives.

At Belspur Oaks, we hope that every pet owner will take the opportunity to examine "The Guide For Planning Ahead" that will make the future transition of a pet's passing easier. To print out your free copy today, please visit BelspurOaks.Com.

Another critical part of the pre-planning process is to decide what will become of your pet should something happen to you. Not to worry, you say? Every day, we hear stories of animals who are left in the care of relatives or friends, who, with all good intention, agreed at some point to care for the animals when the pet owners were sent



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away on military missions, hospitalized, temporarily displaced from their homes or—God forbid—die. Sometimes, the caregiver commissioned to take care of the animal finds that he or she just can't deal with the responsibilities required in taking care of the pet anymore; perhaps their personalities don't mesh, they don't have the time or they no longer can afford the expense that is required to take care of the animal properly. What often happens, then, is that the pet ends up in a local animal shelter or—even worse—somewhere else the pet owner never intended. How heartbreaking!

All pet owners must be aware that this could, indeed, happen to their pets. How can they prevent their beloved companions from becoming one of these statistics?

Now is a great opportunity to reference another important resource, a book titled, "The Pet Plan and Pet Trust Guide," written by Kimberly Adams Colgate, an attorney in Sarasota. This invaluable book is any easy-to-understand guide to setting up a Pet Plan and a Pet Trust. Not only is it a quick read with lots of colorful and humorous illustrations, the book also includes a fill-in-the-blank Pet Trust Form.

"The Pet Plan and Pet Trust Guide" can be purchased for \$19.99 (plus tax) from Belspur Oaks online at BelspurOaks.Com or by visiting our crematory in Sarasota.

...The Journey to the Rainbow Bridge

Preplanning Guide Worksheet

I, _____ the pet parent of: _____
hereby 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.
- ☐ Private Cremation: Your pet will be cremated by itself and placed into a decorative urn.
- ☐ Communal Cremation: 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. ☐ A casket will not be needed.
- ☐ Pet Burial Bag: A pet burial bag will be needed. ☐ A pet burial bag will not be needed.
- ☐ An Outdoor Marker: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ Paw Print and Fur Clippings ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ Decorative Pet Cremation Urn: Urn Item: _____
- ☐ Personalization: ☐ Yes ☐ No (Contact our office for more information).
- ☐ 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.