

# When it's time to say goodbye

A guide to euthanasia

[www.boundaryvets.co.uk](http://www.boundaryvets.co.uk)



**Boundary Vets**

Providing quality veterinary care since 2009

**Having a pet is one of life's most rewarding experiences but, sadly, saying goodbye is an unavoidable part of this. We understand how difficult this decision is and it's our priority to support you throughout this time with dignity and care.**

### **When is the right time?**

Your vet will help you reach this decision based on your pet and the circumstances. There are many factors to consider including your pet's quality of life, individual circumstances, pain and how their condition might progress.

We'll help you consider all aspects of your pet's daily routine and how their habits and activities are changing. Together, we'll plan the best way forward for you and your pet.

### **Timing your euthanasia appointment**

We have appointments available during our quieter times or we can arrange a time that best suits you. Your appointment is longer than a usual consultation to allow you to spend more time with your pet.

### **Supporting you every step of the way**

We can arrange a consultation where you will have the opportunity to ask questions about having your pet put to sleep.

### **What happens afterwards?**

You may wish to take your pet home to bury them or have them cremated. If you would like to take your pet home, we can help you consider how best to transport and move your pet.

If you choose to have your pet cremated, we'll be able to arrange this for you. After which you can choose to receive your pet's ashes in a casket or a container for you to later scatter.

Some people like to have a paw print or clipping of their pet's fur. Let us know if you would like these keepsakes and we can arrange this for you.

We can fully explain all of the options at your pre-euthanasia appointment.



## What happens during my pet's appointment?

If you wish to stay with your pet while we put them to sleep, we'll explain what happens to help prepare you. If you prefer to say goodbye beforehand, we'll arrange for you to spend some time with your pet. If at any point you change your mind, just let us know. We understand that it's sometimes difficult to predict how you'll feel.

We may give your pet a sedative which will be injected into your pet's muscle and you can hold them while they become sleepy. This usually takes around 10 to 15 minutes.

We place a cannula into the vein in your pet's leg which is sometimes carried out while you wait in another room.

If you wish, and where possible, we can help you comfortably hold your pet. When you are ready the vet will inject a strong anaesthetic drug directly into your pet's blood stream. Your pet will fall asleep and once they are fully unconscious, their heart will stop beating. The vet will listen to your pet's heart and check their reflexes to confirm they have passed away. Some pets pass urine or faeces after they die; this is a normal reaction. Your pet's eyes will stay open and as air leaves their lungs, they may appear to take a few breaths.

You can spend some time afterwards with your pet if you wish. We can stay with you, or you can have time alone if you prefer.

If your pet is being cremated, they'll stay with us until they are collected by the cremation service. If your pet is going home with you, we'll wrap your pet in their blanket, or place them in their carrier, and help you when you're ready to leave the practice.

If your insurance policy covers euthanasia, we can help you to complete your claim paperwork after your appointment.

## Coming to terms with the loss of your pet

We're here for you if you would like to discuss anything with us or have any questions.

There are also organisations who can support you and help you come to terms with the loss of your pet.

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### Compassion Understood

Advice and support for pet owners at their companion's end-of-life.

**W:** [compassionunderstood.com](http://compassionunderstood.com)

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### Blue Cross Pet Bereavement Support Service

Direct support via phone or email for those mourning the loss of a pet.

**T:** 0800 096 6606

**E:** [pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk](mailto:pbssmail@bluecross.org.uk)

**W:** [bluecross.org.uk](http://bluecross.org.uk)

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### The Ralph Site for pet loss support

Providing support for pet carers around the loss of a beloved companion.

**W:** [theralphsite.com](http://theralphsite.com)





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