

End of life support

When the time has come to say goodbye to your pet, we are here to help and make things as easy as possible for all involved. Here is some information which will hopefully help to answer a few questions, do not hesitate to contact the practice if you have any further questions that are not answered here.

Making an appointment

It is advisable to make an appointment ahead of time (where possible) to allow yourselves time to say goodbye. We will try to make the appointment during a quieter part of the day. Plenty of time will be allowed (where possible) to allow you to say your goodbyes and not feel rushed.

We may also be able to arrange a house visit. If this is something that you may like please contact the practice and discuss this with practice staff.

What happens once you've arrived at the practice?

Please let reception know that you have arrived - you may wish to wait outside until you are called through, once again please let reception staff know so that we know where to find you.

Once you've been called through into the consulting room we will need to gain consent for the euthanasia to go ahead this will be in the form of a consent form which will need to be signed and dated.

A small patch of fur will need to be shaved from one of the front limbs. You may wish to keep this as a memento of your pet - please do not hesitate to collect this fur if you so wish. Once the fur is shaved the area will be cleaned.

Your pet will need to be held by a member of practice staff; you can stroke and comfort your pet while the injection is given by the vet.

The injection given to your pet is an overdose of an anaesthetic - this means that your pet will fall unconscious and slip away feeling no pain.

The heart will stop - this is checked by the vet who will let you know once your pet has passed away.

Urine and faeces may be observed after your pet has slipped away - this is because of the muscles relaxing after death.

Just before passing away and shortly after you may observe that your pet takes some deep breaths this is normal.

Now what happens?

You may have already decided what happens next for your pet. If you have not there is no need to decide right away - we can keep your pet here in cold storage whilst you make a decision.

You may have a nice spot in the garden where you would like to bury your pet. We can assist you into the car if necessary and provide you with a plastic bag to put under your pet to prevent the spillage of either urine or faeces.

You may not have the capabilities to bury your pet at home or may not want to. This isn't an issue. We can arrange for cremation for your pet.

When thinking about cremation you may decide that you would like to have your pet ashes returned to you. We can organise this for you. Your pet will be collected from us and taken to the crematorium and the ashes will be returned to us for you to then collect.

The crematorium offers a range of container for your pet to be returned in. If you wish to scatter your pet's ashes - maybe in the garden or on a favourite walk you may like to think about the presentation container. This is a biodegradable container which is designed for the ashes to be scattered from. The crematorium also offers a range of wooden caskets. Please make the practice staff aware of your choice.

If you decide that you would like to have ashes returned we will contact you once your pet has arrived back at the practice.

Losing a pet can be difficult for all members of the family.

Go to the link pages to find a link to the crematorium we used and the services they use at Surrey Pet crematorium. www.surrey-pet-cemetery.co.uk