



Why Pre-Plan the Final Arrangements of Your Beloved Pet?

The day you say goodbye to your beloved companion will be very emotional – it should be spent remembering the good times and not spent making numerous decisions regarding final arrangements.

Preparing and planning ahead will give you the peace of mind in knowing that you've educated yourself on the many options available to you, and that you've done what's best for you and your pet.

There are many questions to ask in regard to your pet's final arrangements. The answers will begin to guide you, as you and your family decide how you will memorialize your special companion. However, so many people *'don't know what they don't know'* when it comes to these decisions. We'll provide you with some additional thoughts to help guide you in these decisions.



BURIAL VERSUS AQUAMATION

If your decision is to be based on what is environmentally friendly, then Aquamation is the responsible choice for you and your beloved companion.

BURIAL - impact: Fuels, Materials and Greenspace.

AQUAMATION - no impact: Water, Alkali and Organic Material

Final Arrangements

The following is designed to help you record your decisions in advance, so you have fewer decisions to make when facing the death of your beloved pet. This will make it a little easier on yourself and your family during a very difficult time.

The final arrangements for my pet's body is:

Burial Aquamation

If you prefer burial, where were you planning the burial?

Home Local Pet Cemetery Friend's Home

Areas of consideration with this decision are:

- Will this town allow pet burials?
- Will you always live in this area and have access to the burial grounds?
- Did your pet like the outside or the inside? Will that influence your pet's final resting place?



For the burial, will you want a casket to protect your pet's body? Yes No

If you are considering burial at home, would you be comfortable leaving your pet behind should you decide to move?

Yes No

If you are considering Aquamation, do you wish to have the remains returned to you?

Yes No

If you do not wish to have the remains returned, your pet will be aquamated in a 'communal' Aquamation, along with other pets.

If you choose to have the remains returned to you, is it important for you to know the urn or scattering pouch contains the remains of your pet, and only your pet?

Yes No

If this answer is Yes, please know that all Aquamations are video recorded to guarantee the process. This video can be made available to you should you wish. In addition, we assign a unique 'disc' to your pet, which follows them throughout the entire process, from the time your pet is picked up, to the return of the remains. This gives you peace of mind in knowing your pet's mortal remains were treated with care. This disc system is used by human funeral homes.

Memorialization Options

Making a decision on which urn or memorial item is a personal process. Think of your life together, your pet's personality, your life style - it is also important to think about where this urn or memorial item will be in your home or even your garden. If you have a large pet family, you may also want to consider a 'family urn' so they can all be 'together.'

There are various memorialization products to consider:

- Rocks/Garden Flagstones
- An urn reflective of your decorative style
- Blown glass memorial with some of the pet's remains
- Locket jewellery to hold a bit of ashes or pet hair
- Jewellery with the pet's own paw print or nose print
- An eco-friendly urn for burial in a special place
- Woven tapestry of the pet
- A piece of art done to depict the pet's personality

The desired memorialization items to remember our pet are:



Ceremonies & Rituals

"When words are inadequate, have a ceremony."

~ Dr Alan D. Wolfelt, PH.D.

No one can say how long the grieving process will take. While having a ritual or ceremony won't put an end to grieving, many bereaved pet parents feel that having some type of event in memory of their pet does help with the healing process. It can provide a sense of closure, and help turn one's focus to the positive – to reinforce the wonderful memories, as a way to stem the tide of pain that comes from loss.

These events – you can call them ceremonies, rituals, or celebrations, for example – can be as simple as having an undisturbed time of reflection in a peaceful place. They can be as big as a community celebration, with donations made by those in attendance to a local animal charity. You can have people openly pay respects and share memories, or simply join you in quiet comfort.

As with burial or Aquamation, the choice of a ritual or ceremony is ultimately a personal one, and one we're prepared to assist you with at the Pet Loss Care Memorial Center. If you'd like to talk about your options, or explore the possibilities of creating a memorial or a benefit for a local charity, just let us know.

What type of service do you feel is most appropriate for you and your family in memory of your pet?

- Quiet Visitation Celebration of Life Service Personal Time

A Rare Gift

On behalf of everyone at the Pet Loss Care Memorial Center, we want you to know that you've given yourself a 'rare gift' by considering the information in this guide, and answering its questions.



Few people take the time – whether out of fear, or procrastination, or an active choice – to address the choices that need to be made when a loved one passes on. Instead, most people are forced to make choices at the worst possible time – when they're consumed by grief, in the wake of the pet's passing.

Please take a moment, before you move on with the rest of your day, to give yourself credit for doing this in advance, and having the foresight to take this burden off your shoulders in the future. Keep this in a safe place, and it'll be there to help you when the time comes.



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