



Greenbay Vets

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SAYING GOODBYE

We always fear losing our pets that mean so much to us. Nevertheless, that time inevitably does come and the decision to have your beloved pet 'put to sleep' is an especially difficult one.

Making the decision

Deciding to have your pet 'put to sleep', and knowing when the time is right is often very difficult. We strive to support you during this time and you are welcome to talk to any of our team or book a pre-euthanasia consultation with a vet in person or over the telephone.

Making the appointment

Speak to one of our team and schedule the appointment to suit yourselves. We try to arrange these appointments for quiet times of the day and allow enough time for you and your pet. It is also possible for us to arrange to do a home visit. If you have never been through this experience before let us know, as we can explain what you would like to know and what to expect regarding the procedure.

The euthanasia appointment ... to be there or not?

It is your personal choice whether you would like to be present during the procedure. Many owners like to be there and it can have a calming effect on your pet. Some choose to stay in the waiting room during the procedure and then visit their pet afterwards, spending a few moments in private.

The procedure

To administer the injection, which is an overdose of anaesthetic, the vet will usually need access into a vein in the front leg. This requires your pet to be calm – if the veterinary surgeon requests your permission to sedate your pet, please understand this is only to make the procedure a lot nicer for your pet. This sometimes happens in older, anxious or afraid pets. A veterinary nurse will then help hold your pet while the vet shaves a bit of fur, and will put a slight amount of pressure onto the vein. This allows the vet to see the vein better, who will then proceed with the injection. Whilst this is going on you can cuddle and comfort your pet as you normally would. Sometimes, the vet may ask to place a cannula into the vein first, and in some cases the vet may give the injection into the tummy instead – they should always explain what they are doing, and in all cases their main concern is keeping your pet as calm and as comfortable as possible.

The injection works very quickly, and most pets simply appear to fall asleep and then pass away within a few minutes. Your pet will not close their eyes, and they do sometimes make what appear to be breaths or muscle movements even after they have gone. You are welcome to spend some time alone with your pet after they have passed.

Afterwards

You can take your pet home for burial or you may choose to leave your pet with us for cremation. There are two choices, either 'routine cremation' where your pet will be cremated alongside other pets, or 'individual cremation' where he/she will be cremated on their own and the ashes are returned to us for you to collect from the surgery in a casket of your choice.

It is possible to discuss the options in more detail prior to the appointment, so that everything is arranged. We use a local family-run crematorium, Meadow Wood, which has built up an exceptionally good rapport with us over the years, so you do not need to worry that your pet is not in safe hands. Visit their website to find out more about the cremation options available; they do also offer a burial service.

For that extra support...

There are several support groups who specialise in pet loss counselling if you need that extra chat. Never feel ashamed for having strong feelings over the loss of your pet, you are not alone. Here are the details of one service -

The **Pet Bereavement Support Service** (which is part of the Blue Cross for Pets) is a telephone helpline and email service that offers support to bereaved pet owners, through a national network of trained volunteer befrienders. Telephone 0800 096 6606 (seven days a week 8.30am-8.30pm).