



Saying Goodbye

The question every pet lover dreads: When is the right time to say goodbye. There is often no easy answer to that question.

Choosing to end a pet's life is the hardest decision an owner can make. However, it can also be the most compassionate decision that you can make. With guidance from your veterinarian, it can make the decision a little easier, but ultimately the decision is yours to make. It is you that looks in your pet's eyes and wonders if you're doing the right thing.

There are many different ways to go about making this decision. Some people feel that if an illness becomes chronic or untreatable that they no longer want their pet suffering so they choose to euthanize. Others feel it is time when there is a complete loss of appetite and their pet no longer has interest in life. Yet for some owners, they wait until it's undeniably time, often feeling like they waited too long once the decision was made.

There are a variety of emotions attached to animals that most people do not quite expect. People may be surprised by how they feel and can even become embarrassed by their feelings after they have lost a pet. Sometimes these pets are tied to other people that can bring up other bittersweet memories.

It's very important to take care of yourself when dealing with pet loss. Not everyone grieves the same way. We recommend that if you do find yourself having a hard time dealing with grief; surround yourself with those who are in the same boat. They feel the same way and can help you by simply listening. There are lots of volunteer veterinary students that have pet support lines as well as websites that you can chat with other owners who have recently lost their pet. And if you need it, never be ashamed to get professional help.

Choosing to end a pet's suffering is no more than an act of love and kindness. Knowing that your decision is based on those two words helps us get through the sad and lonely times of loss.

Oceana Veterinary Clinic offers several different options for animal care after the decision has been made. Some people like the option of being able to take their pet home, and have an at-home burial. Others would prefer to have their pet cremated. We offer two different options for cremation services. One is mass cremation and the other is private cremation. Mass cremation is done when an owner would prefer not to have the remains back, and private cremation is done when an owner would like their pet's, and only their pet's ashes back.