

FACT SHEET

Euthanasia

Most animals kept as pets have considerably shorter life spans than their owners. Naturally, enough, this means that at some point you'll probably have to decide the time has come to say goodbye to a cherished part of your life.

How will I know when the time is right?

We hear this question a lot and we have never found any simple answer. Every situation has different considerations. Among the most common would be the quality of your pet's life, whether he or she is suffering and what the chances are of improvement. Eventually however, looking after the best interests of your pet will likely leave you no alternative other than euthanasia.

Why is euthanasia the best method?

Quite simply, there is no faster, less traumatic way. Normally, we start by giving your pet a sedative so that they are calm and settled. We then insert an IV catheter if possible with an extension piece so we can inject into the vein while you hold your pet comfortably. When you are ready, the veterinarian will inject a concentrated anaesthetic drug similar to that used for most surgeries directly into the IV line. Within seconds the animal relaxes and becomes unconscious. Another few seconds later the heart and breathing stop. It is all very peaceful.

How do I arrange it?

Once the family has agreed on this course of action, simply contact PAH to organise an appointment. You have a choice of bringing your pet to us or, if you would feel more comfortable spending your last moments together at home, we will come to you.

What happens next?

After euthanasia you have several options. If you wish, you may take your pet home with you for burial. Alternatively, we will look after the remains. While most animals are buried, you can also arrange an individual cremation for an extra charge. This is performed at an EPA-authorized facility, and the ashes are returned in a scatter box or casket. Cremations are carried out individually, so ALL your pet's ashes, and ONLY your pet's ashes will be returned to you.

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