

It's never easy to say goodbye. Coming to terms with the idea that a beloved pet is nearing the end of his journey through life is hard. He may have been a constant and devoted companion for many years or perhaps grew up with the children as part of the family. We understand you will miss them as much as you would a close friend or even a family member.

## The **loss** of a loved pet

Probably most of us hope our dog will pass away quietly in their sleep. However, death by natural causes may be drawn out and cause the dog pain and distress. It is the quality of your dog's life that is so important when making a decision whether or not to put him to sleep. No one should feel guilty about choosing euthanasia for their pet when the time comes. It is a kind and considerate final act of a caring owner.

The procedure of euthanasia can be done in the consulting room or at your home. Your veterinary practice will provide a room which is quiet, peaceful and comfortable if you prefer to use it.

Your dog will have a little hair cut from a foreleg and a veterinary nurse will assist the vet in holding the leg. The anaesthetic overdose will be given by injection into a

vein in the leg (just as it is when your pet receives an anaesthetic). He will peacefully fall asleep. You can at all times stroke or cuddle your dog so he/she knows you're with him at the end. If you prefer not to be present, a veterinary nurse will give him the comfort and cuddles for you.

If you choose, your beloved pet can be buried at home or your veterinary practice can arrange the cremation for you. We use a respected pet crematorium and the ashes can be returned if you so wish.

As pet owners, your veterinary practice understand how painful and hard it may be to decide to have our old companion put to sleep. Please don't hesitate to talk to a member of staff about any concerns you may have.

