

A Tribute to My Pet's Life

Pet's Name: _____ Nicknames: _____

Birth Date: _____ Where You Were Born: _____

Pet Parents: _____

Pet Siblings: _____

Pet Friends: _____

Got You Date: _____ Where We Got You: _____

Date of Death: _____

Human Siblings: _____

Human Friends: _____

Favorite Toys: _____

Favorite Activities: _____

Least Favorite Things: _____

Favorite Place to Sleep: _____

Favorite Food: _____

Memories: _____



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A guide to

Planning Ahead

Preparing to Say Goodbye

No one wants to think about losing their pet, but planning ahead will give you and your family an opportunity to discuss how you want to memorialize and celebrate the life that you shared together.

There are many things to consider. Think about how you want your pet to be treated after it's death—as well as the support you will need as a grieving pet parent. Make plans to ensure your pet will be treated with utmost dignity and respect. Making these decisions ahead of time may give you peace of mind and relieve much of the stress you would have incurred at the time of your pet's death, had you not planned ahead.

Final Arrangements

After cremation, will you want your pet's ashes returned to you? Yes No

If your answer is no, tell your pet death care provider you want "Community Cremation." Your pet will be cremated along with other pets and their ashes will all be scattered together in a designated area.

Is it important that your pet be the *only* pet in the cremation chamber? Yes No

If your answer is yes, tell your pet death care provider you want "Private Cremation." This ensures that the ashes returned to you are only your pet's ashes.

Professional pet death care providers use a tracking system throughout the cremations process. A tag with a unique number accompanies your pet's body, ensuring that the ashes returned to you are indeed your pet's ashes. Be sure to confirm your pet death care provider offers this service.

Service Options

You and your family may want to have one last visit with your pet after it's death. While some may consider this morbid, many pet parents cherish this last time spent with their beloved pet. It's a time to see your pet at peace. You or your children may want to bring items that were special to your pet. It's a special time to say your final good-byes and to begin the grief journey.

Friends, family members, and even other pets in your household may benefit from having a final good-bye with your pet. Pets touch so many people during their short lives with us. Allow those around you the opportunity to come together, pay their respects, and support each other as they grieve.

My family and I will want a to say a final good-bye to our pet: Yes No

Occasionally families will take this final good-bye time to incorporate their important family or religious rituals, which may include:

- Special readings
- A candle lighting tribute
- Sharing videos of the pet and your family
- A donation drive for a local shelter in memory of your pet
- Playing audio tapes of their meow, bark, or chirp
- Rituals you and your pet did to say "I love you"
- Reading of special poems and remembrances
- The planting of a tree, flower, or bush
- Reading a eulogy to remember your pet's life with your family
- Scripture readings

The following rituals are important to us and will be included in our final good-bye time together:

Memorialization Options

Making a decision on memorialization products is a personal process. This will be reflective of the life shared with your pet, your life style, your personal style, and those items that are reflective of your pet's personality. It's also important to take into consideration where your memorialization pieces will go in your home, or in your yard, and how you want the item to look, either blending in with your decor or making an individual statement. In addition, if you have a large pet family, consider a memorialization piece where all of the pets can be together.

There are many ways to memorialize your pet:

- Rocks/Garden Flagstones
- An urn that is reflective of your decorating style
- An eco-friendly urn for burial in a special location
- Jewelry that would have the pet's own paw print or nose print on it
- Locket jewelry with a bit of the pet's ashes or hair
- Memorial Note Cards
- An urn with your pet's paw prints
- A personalized urn made to look like the pet
- A frame to hold a cast of your pet's paw print, nose print, and locket of hair
- A piece of art done to depict the pet's personality

We'd like to memorialize our pet with:

The personalization of your memorial pieces will truly make them as unique as your relationship was with your pet. From an inscription on an urn or jewelry piece, to the saying on a rock or marker, your sentimental words will create a true reflection of the love that you have for your special pet. Hearing other friends and family member's stories is certainly a wonderful way to reflectively pay tribute to your pet and get everyone involved in honoring their life.

When you think about your pet – what makes you smile?

- A nickname: *Squirrelly-Girly-Shirley ... He was our little Buddy-Wuddy ... Sweetie Pie ... Whit*
- A saying: *Our First Born ... Hiding sox in heaven ... She's My Girl ... Always Chasing Frisbees and Hearts*
- Dates: *Birth date ... Got You date to death date*
- A photo
- Personal paw print or nose print
- A way to show your pet's love of their favorite: a bone ... slice of pizza ... a cookie