Dealing with Pet Bereavement

Losing a pet means losing a member of the family. During this difficult time, it can help to say goodbye to your companion and allow yourself to grieve. These are some ways to deal with the loss of a beloved pet:

Choosing a Resting Place

Home Burial

Smaller pets can be buried in your own garden, as long as the property belongs to you. Choosing a high, dry spot to lay your pet to rest is best.

Your pet's resting place should be at least three feet deep and allow your pet's body to fit comfortably.

You can wrap your pet in a cotton towel, or decorate a cardboard box and place your pet in it before putting them in their resting place.

Legally, pets that have received medical treatment, such as chemotherapy or drugs and euthanasia, cannot be buried as they could become hazards. Speak to your vet if you are unsure.

Pets cannot be buried on public land, such as a park or field.

Pet Cemetery

Pet cemeteries have become a popular choice as resting places for deceased pets. Pet parents can buy a site at the dedicated pet cemetery for their pet. They can also add a headstone and visit their pet's grave.

Cremation

Pets of all sizes can be cremated, and your vet can help you find a local crematorium. The crematorium will return the pet's ashes to their owner. The pet parents have a choice of a biodegradable container, which is ideal for scattering or burying the ashes, or a memorial box for their pet's ashes if they would prefer keeping their pet's ashes.

Pet parents can choose to have their pet's ashes turned into jewellery or use them to grow a plant or tree, so they can keep a reminder of their pet with them.

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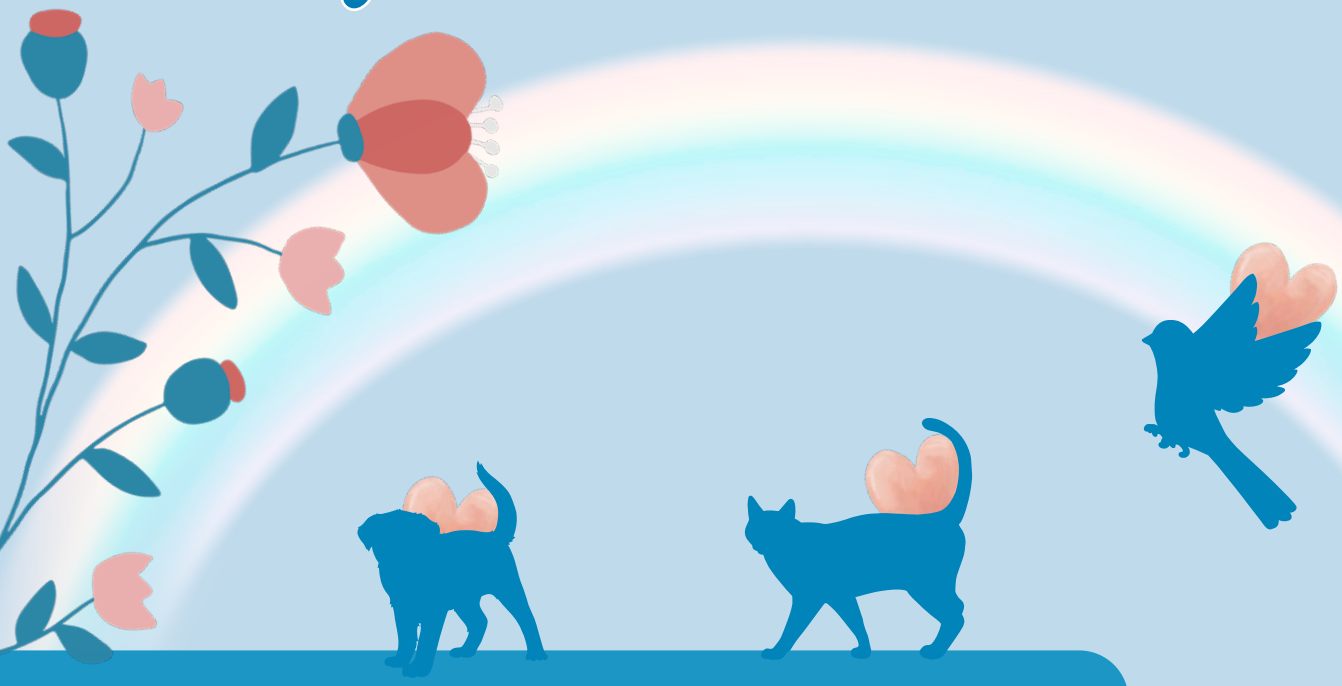

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Saying Goodbye

Funeral

You can hold a funeral for your pet. If you and your family feel comfortable with this, you could say a few words about your pet or sing a song for them. When you're finished burying the pet, why not set up a headstone and some flowers on the burial site? It will help you remember where your pet is buried, and also allow your grieving family to visit the spot at any point.park or field.

Remembering Your Pet

A Spot in Your Home

As part of the grieving process, you can create a collage of positive memories of your pet. This collage can include photos, drawings, writing, and even a bit of fur or a feather from your pet.

Visiting the Resting Place

Your family can write letters or create drawings for your pet and leave them at their resting place. Visiting the grave with flowers can also help process the loss.

If you're struggling with the loss of your pet, take advantage of pet bereavement services.