

Caskets and urns

Caskets and urns are a distinctive way to keep your beloved pets ashes. There is a selection of designs and sizes available so you can be sure to find the one that best suits you. Each casket is returned in a presentation box with cremation certificate.

Beechwood Caskets



Dark Wood Casket



Pewter Odyssey Urn



Scatter Boxes & Scatter Tubes



Slate Odyssey Urn



Carved Caskets



Deluxe Casket



Pink & Blue Urn



Striped Pewter Urn



Cremation options

- Companion cremation alongside other animals
- Individual cremation from which ashes can be returned within 2-3 weeks

China Urn



Garden Pebble Urn



Resin Dog



Scatter Pouches



Classic Urn



Mango Urns



Resin Rabbit



Sleeping Cat Natural



Please ask at reception for more details.

When it is time to say goodbye



Because all vets are not the same

www.parkvets.com

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 Petts Wood 01689 867810
 Swanley 01322 665916
 Parkvets@Home 01689 813511

ParkVets

Parkvets Veterinary Hospital

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When it is time to say goodbye

As a pet owner, you will know what an incredibly rewarding experience it is, although as your pet gets older or develops an illness it can sometimes be very difficult too. Loss is an almost inevitable part of pet ownership and although we know this, sometimes the stress and grief arising from your own pet's death can be a little overwhelming.

Reactions to the death of a pet will vary from person to person and will depend on a range of factors such as the nature of your relationship with the pet, the support available to you and the specific circumstances surrounding the death. Some owners will experience upset and sadness, but will move through the grieving process within a few days. Others may take longer to come to terms with it, perhaps experiencing more severe grief and even symptoms of depression along the way.

Every person's reaction is individual to them and there is no right or wrong way to handle the process. Pets are often integral parts of our families, it therefore makes sense that grieving for their loss could follow a similar pattern to that of grieving for a person.

Initial reactions might include numbness, shock, sadness and tearfulness. If you have to make the difficult decision to put your pet to sleep it is not unusual to experience guilt and doubt. It is important to remember that you put your pet's needs before your own when you chose to release them from their pain – a selfless decision made for all the right reasons.

When is euthanasia appropriate?

If your pet develops a clinical condition or experiences trauma for which the prognosis is poor, your vet may suggest euthanasia as a way of reducing your pet's discomfort. Alternatively, your pet may simply age and become infirm leading you to question the quality of their life.

You know your pet better than anyone, and your vet will always act in their best interests. Together you will know if and when euthanasia is the right course of action.

To help you understand the options available to you, Parkvets offers a pre-euthanasia consultation with a trained member of our client care or nursing team.

This is a non-clinical appointment to allow you to ask anything you might want to know, such as how long the procedure takes, whether you can hold your pet while it is happening, and what to expect when your pet passes away.

Depending on your children's age and sensitivity, you may also want to involve them in this appointment to help them come to terms with their loss.

What happens during the euthanasia appointment?

Euthanasia appointments are 30 minutes long, wherever possible, giving you plenty of time to settle your pet and yourself.

Depending on your decisions and the judgement of the vet, your pet may be removed from the consulting room for a few minutes to allow a canula to be placed in their leg. This will require a small amount of fur to be shaved in order to access the vein adequately. Afterwards you can have a short time alone with them to hold and stroke them and say your farewells.

You will also be asked whether you want to be present for the actual procedure or would prefer not to watch. This is entirely your decision, and you can be assured that there will be plenty of compassionate staff on hand to ensure that both you and your pet are well looked after.

When you are ready, the vet will return and administer an overdose of anaesthetic. Within moments your pet will fall asleep and from this peaceful slumber will gently pass away. This may take a little longer if your pet is very old or sick as their circulation may be compromised.

Your pet may move or shudder after they have passed away; this is a normal reaction and is simply the muscles relaxing and releasing.

You will then be given some time alone with your pet until you feel able to leave. All you need to do at this stage is go home, take some time to relax and indulge in some wonderful memories of your pet's life with you.

What happens after the appointment?

You will need to consider whether you would prefer to bury your pet at home – provided that they did not have an infectious disease – or whether you would like us to organise a cremation. For the latter, you need to decide between a companion cremation alongside other pets, or an individual cremation from which you can have the ashes returned to you.

We are often asked how sure we can be that a pet is truly cremated on their own, and that the ashes are actually those of the right pet. We can assure you – having watched the process from beginning to end – that strict operational procedures ensure that individual cremations are monitored at every stage and that each animal's identity is repeatedly checked to ensure the owners' wishes are respected.

If you choose an individual cremation, you will receive a phone call from us within two to three weeks of the procedure confirming that your pet's ashes are ready for collection from us.

How should I explain the situation to my children?

Death is typically hard for young children to understand so it is important to explain that it is a natural event which happens to very old and very sick people and animals. Try to explain that vets do their absolute best to make animals better but that sometimes an animal is so sick or old that the vet is unable to mend them. In these extreme cases the vet can help the animal to die in order to prevent further suffering.

Avoid using confusing terminology such as 'put to sleep' as children are typically very literal and may expect their pet to wake up. Similarly, avoid saying the animal has gone away, as some children may wait in anticipation for their return.

If they are old enough, and understand the situation, it may help your child come to terms with the reality of the situation if you involve them in decisions about cremations and burials. Perhaps they would like a keepsake such as a paw print or lock of hair.

Above all, allow your child to experience their feelings and to grieve for their loss. Talking about their pet will be good for them and understanding the finality of death will help them adapt to life without their pet.

When should I get another pet?

At some point after the loss of a pet you may begin to wonder about getting another pet. You might find there is a hole in your life which needs filling quickly or you might decide you never want to experience the pain of loss again. The decision has to be entirely personal and you should not feel pressured either way.

If you do decide to embark on a new relationship remember that this will be with a different pet. Don't try to replace your lost friend, instead treat the new pet as a character in its own right. Get to know your new pet and celebrate their differences as much as their similarities, so that you can truly enjoy the start of another rewarding relationship.

