



Veterinary Wisdom[®]

for pet parents

Planning Ahead for the Loss of a Beloved Pet

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Facing the loss of a beloved pet can be one of the toughest times in life. Planning ahead and being prepared can help lessen the stress you'll face. Here is a checklist of things you should consider as you plan ahead for the loss of a pet:

- If your pet receives a diagnosis of an illness, consider what you will choose to do.
 - Do you need more information about the diagnosis from your veterinarian? Write down your questions and schedule the time to ask them. Write down the answers you get!
 - Consider what outcome you would like to see for your pet. Know what your boundaries are, and consider your finances too, when making treatment decisions.

- Think about how you want to say good-bye to your pet when the time comes.
 - If euthanasia is an option for your pet, do you have the information you need about the euthanasia process? Talk to your veterinarian about how they perform euthanasias.
 - Think about how you will decide that it is time for euthanasia. What signs will you look for in your pet's behavior? What signs has your veterinarian told you to watch for?
 - Are there certain things you want to bring to your pet's euthanasia? A special blanket your pet loves, music that calms you, family members, etc.

- Think about who else in your life might want to be able to say good-bye to your pet. Let them know that your pet is ill and set up a time for them to possibly visit with you and your pet.

- If you have children, consider what they will need during a difficult time. There are many resources for helping children with pet loss.

- Do you know what you want to do with your pet's body after he or she has died? There are many options and it is important to know what will work for you.

- Is there a special way you would like to memorialize your pet after he or she dies? Planting a tree, making a [ClayPaws® print](http://www.veterinarywisdomforpetparents.com/cpstore.htm) (www.veterinarywisdomforpetparents.com/cpstore.htm), or making a donation in your pet's name are a few ways you might consider.

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