

# **Pet** **Tips**



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## **Choosing To Euthanize A Pet Is One Of The Hardest Decisions A Pet Owner Can Face.**

Having been on both sides of this decision, as a veterinarian and as a pet owner, I know the heartache and sorrow that accompanies even the contemplation of helping a beloved family pet pass on. Sometimes it is the most humane decision we can make. But knowing our dear friend won't suffer any longer does little to ease our own grief over the decisionmaking process.

Although deciding to euthanize a pet is a personal decision, it does not have to be a solitary one. Your family, friends and veterinarian are all wonderful people to turn to for support and information.

If you are considering a euthanasia, contact your vet and discuss your situation with them. Your vet will be familiar with your pet's medical history and can give you recommendations on treatments or procedures that may help your pet's condition improve. If there are no further treatment options available, your vet can help alleviate any concerns you may have regarding the actual euthanasia process. They can also discuss options for your pet's remains, such as having the ashes returned to you.

You do have the option of being present during the procedure. If you are comfortable with that, fine. If not, understand that you are not alone. Many pet owners find being with their family friend comforting, and many do not want their last memories to be of that time. Your vet's office will understand. It's never easy for us, and veterinarians and veterinary staff strive to make this difficult passing as easy and peaceful as possible.

When the times comes, please remember one thing - you are making the decision you deem best for your family friend.

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