

Preparing for Goodbye

Family Matters

One of the greatest gifts we can give our pets is a life filled with love.

One of the hardest gifts we can give is a peaceful goodbye.

No matter how much we prepare ourselves, saying goodbye to a beloved pet is never easy.

At Amity, we believe that understanding what lies ahead can replace some of the fear with peace. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you prepare emotionally and practically so your pet's final moments are filled with dignity, comfort and love.

There Is No Right or Wrong Time to Grieve

Many people begin grieving long before their pet has passed away.

This is called **anticipatory grief**.

You may feel sadness, guilt, anger or even relief that your pet is no longer suffering.

All of these emotions are normal.

There is no "correct" way to feel.

The depth of your grief simply reflects the depth of your love.

Making the Most of the Time You Have

If you know your pet is approaching the end of their life, try to focus on what they can still enjoy.

Perhaps it's:

- Sitting in the sunshine.
- A gentle stroll.
- Their favourite treats.
- Sleeping beside you.
- Time with the family.
- A favourite toy or blanket.

They don't know how much time remains.

They simply know they're spending it with the people they love.

Practical Things to Consider

Although difficult, making a few decisions in advance can make the day itself much less overwhelming.

You may wish to think about:

- Who would like to be present.
- Whether children should attend.
- Whether you'd prefer individual or communal cremation.
- Whether you'd like your pet's ashes returned.
- Any special keepsakes, such as a paw print or a clipping of fur.

Making these decisions ahead of time allows you to focus entirely on your pet when the moment comes.

Your Pet Doesn't Fear Tomorrow

One thing many guardians find comforting is remembering that pets don't think about the future in the way we do.

They aren't worrying about tomorrow.

They aren't counting the days they have left.

They simply experience each day as it comes.

What matters most to them is that they feel safe, comfortable and surrounded by the people they trust.

The Final Gift

Many guardians tell us they feel guilty about making the decision.

In reality, it is one of the most selfless decisions you'll ever make.

You're choosing to carry the pain yourself so your pet doesn't have to.

That isn't giving up.

It's an extraordinary act of love.

We're Here With You

At Amity, we know that saying goodbye isn't simply a medical appointment.

It's saying goodbye to a family member.

We'll never rush you.

We'll answer every question honestly.

We'll give you as much time as you need.

And we'll do everything we can to ensure your pet's final moments are peaceful, gentle and filled with love.

Because although goodbye is one of the hardest words we'll ever say, it doesn't erase a lifetime of happy memories.

Love doesn't end when life ends.

It remains in every memory, every photograph and every story you'll continue to tell.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.