

Saying Good-Bye to Your Beloved Pet:

A Supportive Guide
Through Euthanasia

Dana Durrance, M.A.



Distributed by:
World by the Tail, Inc.
126 W. Harvard St, Ste. 5
Fort Collins, CO 80525
1-888-271-8444
info@wbtt.com
www.petpeoplehelp.com

Copyright® 2005, World by the Tail, Inc.
All Rights Reserved.

FIRST ELECTRONIC VERSION, January 2006

Table of Contents

Dedication	4
Let's Talk	5
What Next?	6
Between You and Me	9
Preparing for Euthanasia	10
Steps to Take	11
If You Love a Horse	14
If you Love an Exotic Pet	16
If you Love a "Farm Animal"	17
My Last Thought to You	20
Inside the Veterinary Hospital.....	22
What is Pet Hospice?	23
About the Author	25
About the ePublisher	26
A Personal Note from Us to You	27

I've written this eBooklet especially for you to deal with the illness and impending death of your beloved companion animal. My goal is to help and support you as you move through this difficult time.

Let's Talk

There are no words that I can say right now to take away the pain you are feeling. Here you are -- having to face the most difficult decisions of your life and there is no one to tell you what to do and how to proceed. You might be feeling isolated and scared as well. After all, only you know exactly what your pet means to you and it may be difficult to describe it to others or even put it into words. Your pet doesn't care about superficial things like how much money you make, what type of job you have, or what you look like when you get up in the morning. Chances are good that your pet has seen you through difficult times in your life and supported you during some of your weakest, most vulnerable moments. It's hard to find any other companion that will love you no matter what and offer you such total, unconditional devotion.

If your beloved friend has been diagnosed with a terminal disease, my first word of advice to you is to take a deep breath. Nothing is scarier than the prospect of losing a loved one and you are likely feeling a sense of panic. It is normal for you to feel devastated at the prospect of his/her impending death. You may be in shock, denial, or feeling very depressed. You may be having a variety of physical problems such as appetite changes and sleeping difficulties. You may be struggling to understand why this is happening to you and feel a deep sense of outrage without quite knowing who to be angry with. While awful to experience, it is important for you to know that all these feelings are completely normal. It's also important for me to tell you that you can and **WILL SURVIVE THIS!** I know that it doesn't feel that way right now...but you can and you will—especially if you reach out to others and don't try to do this all alone.

These emotions that you are feeling are part of what is known as "*anticipatory grief*". This is a type of grief that occurs before a loved one has actually died. It is just as strong and painful as the grief felt after death and can be very overwhelming. Most people who are experiencing anticipatory grief feel conflicting emotions. On the one hand, they do not want to give up and are hoping for the best while at the same time, they are also trying to prepare for the worst. Maintaining this conflict can be emotionally draining and at some point, you may become exhausted from the effort.

What Next?

So once you know and understand what's going on with you, what comes next? One of the first ways to proceed is to take each day at a time. If you start to think too far ahead, you will probably get more overwhelmed than you already are. The days and weeks ahead will be difficult and stressful, but if you take them one at a time, you can minimize your feelings of panic. You already know that at some point, you may need to think about euthanasia as the most humane and loving course of action. If you are feeling the conflict of "*hoping for the best while preparing for the worst*" it is difficult to think about the possibility of euthanasia. Get in contact with the family and friends that can support you and understand what your pet means to you. Although you may feel powerless, there are still many things that you can do to help your pet and yourself. Below are some initial strategies for you to help you through this time.

- **Consider quality of life issues.** You will need to be an advocate for your pet and decide what the best guidelines are. Quality of life guidelines include both pain and suffering:

Pain is a physical sensation that your veterinarian can help you identify and manage. Find out the cost and effectiveness of the medication that will be needed to control your pet's pain. Consider the following:

- ✓ Does your veterinarian feel confident that your pet's pain can be alleviated?
- ✓ Do you feel comfortable in giving your companion pain medication when your veterinarian is not available?
- ✓ Do you feel assured that you will be able to recognize when your pet is in pain?

- ✓ Do you have the necessary time in your schedule to take care of your pet appropriately? (This may include feeding, cleaning, carrying your pet up and down stairs, outside to go to the bathroom, and taking your pet to and from the animal hospital).

Suffering is a more vague term and can be difficult to define. This takes into account your pet's unique personality and temperament. The following questions are important to consider:

- ✓ What kind of habits, routines, or interactions constitutes your pet's daily life? What type of things make your pet "happy"? How will these routines end or be changed as a result of the disease?
- ✓ Is your companion tolerant or afraid of visiting the pet hospital?
- ✓ Do the symptoms of the disease require that your pet frequently be confined in the home or at the pet hospital? Is your pet able to interact with you?
- ✓ Is your pet having more "bad" days than "good"? In the past week, how many "good" days has your pet had?
- ✓ Do you have enough time in your schedule to care for your pet as he/she becomes more ill? Does your family realize what delaying euthanasia may entail?
- ✓ Is there someone who can help you if you become exhausted and need a break?

Consult with your Veterinarian. Talk openly about your concerns and ask specific questions about the progression of your pet's disease. Consider your pet's expected prognosis and age. What does your veterinarian think is the best possible result of treatment? Is that quality of life acceptable to you? Consider how things may change a few days or weeks down the road. Questions to ask your veterinarian include:

- ✓ What is the expected outcome if I delay euthanasia?
- ✓ Can we still alleviate my pet's pain if I delay euthanasia?
- ✓ What might be some reasons to delay euthanasia? Am I extending my pet's life for a legitimate reason (such as waiting for a family member to return home to say good-bye) or am I just denying the inevitable?
- ✓ How might a "natural death" occur? What might it be like for my pet and what would I need to do to prepare myself? (*Keep in mind that "letting nature takes its course" may seem preferable, but it does not necessarily mean a painless, peaceful, or less traumatic death. A pet that dies naturally may experience great distress or may die alone when you are not there to provide comfort and care in the last few minutes of life.*)
- ✓ What should I do if there is a crisis after hours or if I cannot contact the pet hospital?
- ✓ If you are philosophically opposed to euthanasia and never foresee euthanasia as a legitimate option, talk with your veterinarian about Pet *hospice care* (refer to "What Is Pet Hospice?" described further in this book). *Pet hospice* is based on the same premise as human hospice and you will need to gather resources to assure that your pet's pain and suffering are alleviated as much as possible.

Between You and Me

I'd like to let you in on a secret... there is no *perfect way* to handle this. You are (understandably) flying by the seat of your pants and the best that you can do is make these tough decisions using your heart and gut instincts. That's a good thing because your heart and gut instincts are the best tools you have available. You know your pet best and have always been able to communicate with him/her on a very deep, basic level. This is still true. I know you don't believe it right now, but you really are the best person to make these decisions. You love your pet, and you *can* make good decisions. Talk to your pet, spend time with him/her and listen to your intuition.

One word of caution...try to not let your grief overrule your common sense. When we're afraid of losing someone we love, it's hard to think about anything else. Since you are grieving, it's normal to get lost in your pain and lose your perspective. The best way to guard against this is to think about what's it's like to be your pet on a daily basis. What is the quality of life? (Refer to quality of life guidelines). If you were your pet right now...what would you be feeling? Do you want to eat and drink? Are you in pain? How does it feel when you lie down? Try to imagine life from your pet's perspective. Over the years, I've worked with thousands of pet owners and the one recurring theme is the fear that they kept their pet alive for too long because they could not see past their own grief and fear of loss. If you keep this in mind and work hard to make your decisions with your pet's quality of life in mind, you are on the right track.

Preparing for Euthanasia

If you have decided that euthanasia is the most loving and humane choice, I'd like to tell you how much I admire your courage and devotion to your pet. It takes a tremendous amount of love to set aside your own grief to do what you think is best for your companion. I know it hurts and you've likely just made one of the hardest decisions of your life.

Please know that you still have some control here. Even though your companion's death is inevitable, you still have control over when, where, and how your pet will die. It may feel strange or even morbid to "plan" your pet's death but keep in mind that the one last gift you can give to your friend is a peaceful, loving death. You get only one chance to say good-bye and if you take the time to plan out the details, you can assure that your friend dies with the most love and comfort possible. You can also assure that you get to say good-bye in the way that you need to. You may feel guilty and think you are "giving up" or "playing God." This is a very common. Remember that it is the disease that is killing your pet and you are protecting your companion from needless suffering.

You may also feel guilty for being relieved. This, in no way means that you want your pet to die. It simply means that you are exhausted especially if your pet has been requiring around the clock care. The daily chores of giving medication, helping with bathroom breaks, and the continuous sleep deprivation may have caused you to feel frustrated or irritated with your pet. You may later feel guilty for being angry with your friend while it was dying. Let me assure you that you are not heartless- you are just human. Your devotion and commitment to your pet thus far shows what kind of a person you are and how much you care. Knowing that there is an end in sight to stress of this magnitude would be a relief to anyone. You may also feel relieved to know that you've finally made a decision. Making a decision for euthanasia is an agonizing one and once you've made that decision, you probably feel like a ton of bricks have been lifted off you.

So...how can you prepare for the euthanasia and where should you go from here? Following you will find a list of ideas:

Steps to Take

- Talk specifically with your veterinarian about the euthanasia process and familiarize yourself with all details including a step-by-step description of the medical procedure.
- Decide if you want to be present during euthanasia. Although the thought of being present is very painful, many people find that it is far less traumatic than worrying and not knowing what the last minutes were like. Your absence may cause you to later feel guilty about not “being there” during your pet’s final minutes. People also wonder about the specifics of the euthanasia and worry that their pet did not die peacefully. Being present removes all of these concerns. Given proper preparation and support, your presence may make it far less traumatic and easier to make peace and to grieve your pet’s death in the long run.
- If you decide that, for whatever reason, you cannot be present; there are ways in which you can still support your pet. Talk with the veterinary staff of any special things you want done. They can love and comfort your pet in your place. If you want to say any special last words, do so before or ask the staff to say those words for you. You may decide to not be present but to spend some time with your pet after death. In any case, it is very important to take some time to say good-bye. To express grief in healthy ways we need to say good-bye and make peace with our loved ones. Many people who feel “stuck” in their grief do not get a chance to say good-bye and regret never having the opportunity to do it again.
- Decide if there is anyone else you would like to have present. This may include other family, friends, or even other pets. Children are very important to consider and information is available in the booklet “Helping Children Through a Pet’s Euthanasia”. If you include another family pet(s), it is wise to bring a friend to help you so you will not be distracted from your pet that is being euthanized. If you wish to be alone during

euthanasia, you still may want a friend to come to support you afterwards.

- Consider the practical details of the euthanasia:
 - ✓ When will it take place and where? Do you want your veterinarian to come to your home or do you feel comfortable going to the pet hospital? (Many veterinarians will perform in-home euthanasias at a slightly higher charge. If your veterinarian does not, you can ask for a list of veterinarians that do).
 - ✓ How will you take care of your pet's body? Typical body care options include home burial, cremation, cemetery burial, or having the pet hospital care for the body. Find out the details of each of these options before hand so that you can be prepared and select the option that is the most affordable and appropriate for you. Keep in mind that if you euthanize at a pet hospital and decide for home burial, you will need some way to carry the body home afterwards.
 - ✓ Consider how you will want to say good-bye to your companion. Find out if your veterinarian is flexible and can accommodate special requests (most veterinarians will, but may need preparation ahead of time). For example, some people like to say special words, read poetry, play music, or say a prayer. Remember, that this is your one and only chance to say good-bye. When you look back on this a year from now, what will be important for you to have done? Do you need to say something or do anything special before death? Do not hesitate to make your wishes known.
 - ✓ Think about a post-mortem examination. An autopsy may help you understand more about your pet's disease and may give you some peace of mind knowing that you did indeed, make the right decision.

- ✓ Consider taking a memento of your pet. A clay impression of your companion's paw makes a treasured memento. To find out more about Clay Paws® prints visit World by the Tail, Inc.'s website at www.veterinarywisdom.com. You may also consider taking a clipping of your pet's fur or any collars, tags, and other special objects.
- ✓ How will you take care of yourself in the hours immediately following the euthanasia? Think about your safety when driving home. You may want extra time or have a friend drive you. You may consider taking the day off from work to be with friends and family who can support you after such an emotional experience.

If You Love a Horse

If you are dealing with the illness and euthanasia of a beloved horse there are special issues for you to consider. The bond you share with your horse is likely just as profound as ones you might share with smaller animals but it can be even more special given the nature of your relationship. Many horse owners feel a special kind of love for their horse because the relationship is grounded in mutual respect and trust. You have always taken care of your horse and in return, relied on your horse to take care of you. Your physical safety has depended upon it. Your horse might also be well over 25 years old and this longevity has likely created a tremendous bond. Your horse may have been with you for the majority of your life (maybe since your childhood). This type of relationship is profound and it's important for you to know that your feelings of sadness and loss are completely normal given the depth of your relationship.

You may also be feeling isolated because many people going through this process are those with small animals. They may not understand your unique feelings and be unable to support you in the way that you need. Remember, it doesn't matter whether you love a dog, cat, or horse. What matters is the relationship and the feelings you are experiencing.

You also have additional considerations because the details of euthanasia and body care are complex including safety and cost factors. If your horse is terminal, talk extensively with your veterinarian about the physical details of the euthanasia. Know that your feelings of grief are normal and that you must make your own emotional needs a top priority.

Unfortunately, you might have fewer choices about euthanasia and body care. Even if your veterinarian does everything possible to make euthanasia peaceful, your horse might still respond with reflexive movements. Your horse will not feel this, but the sight of it might be difficult for you to watch. You should talk in advance about the location and your presence with your veterinarian. Consider carefully the following issues:

- Familiarize yourself with the euthanasia process including any possible side effects of the drugs used and any unpredictable behaviors.
- Decide if you want to be present and consider other family and friends who can offer you support.
- Discuss body care options ahead of time. Depending upon your local county ordinances, you may be able to bury your horse on your own property. Other options include cremation, rendering, removal of the body to a county site or pet cemetery burial (some do provide this capacity along with transportation of the body)
- Whether you are present or not, give yourself time to say good-bye either before or after the euthanasia (or both).

- Understand that for your own safety, you will not be able to stand by your horse during the euthanasia. You will likely watch from a safe distance.
- Consider taking a memento of your beloved horse. You may want to take a lock of your horse's tail or mane, braid it, and tie it with a ribbon. You might even take the last set of horseshoes or consider making a clay impression of the hoof print (www.veterinarywisdom.com).

If You Love an Exotic Pet

If your special companion is an exotic animal (such as a rabbit, hamster, guinea pig, hedgehog, ferret, rat, bird, or even reptile) remember that your love for your pet is just as legitimate as that of a more traditional animal. Just because your pet is not a traditional one it does not mean that you care any less or do not have legitimate feelings of loss and grief. Unfortunately, many exotic pet owners must deal with ridicule and are hesitant to ask for support because of this. It is important for you to know that what you are feeling is normal and that you deserve the same support as a dog or cat owner.

For many exotic animal owners, the diversity of such pets makes for a wide range of lifespan and health concerns. In turn, the bond developed between owner and pet is just as varied. Some pets live just a few years, while others (such as parrots and turtles) can easily outlive the person. For example, it is not uncommon for an entire generation of a family to own a parrot. If your exotic pet is ill and you are facing euthanasia, it is important to consider the following issues:

- The treatment of your pet can be very tricky and unpredictable. Surgery and anesthesia can be difficult to give and it is quite possible that your pet may not survive.
- Your presence at euthanasia may create complications. Frequently the most compassionate way to euthanize a small exotic animal can be tough to witness. Consult with your veterinarian and be fully informed of the euthanasia process and any potential complications.
- Give yourself time to say good-bye regardless of your presence at euthanasia.
- Children can become very attached to the exotic animals known as “pocket pets” (hamsters, gerbils, rats, etc.) If you are unsure how to help a child through this process refer to the booklet “Helping Children Through a Pet’s Euthanasia”

If You Love a “Farm Animal”

Animals traditionally viewed as “farm animals” (goats, llamas, pigs and even cows), can become family pets. If this is the case with you, you may feel embarrassed about your feelings because society has yet to fully recognize this bond as legitimate. However, just as with loving an exotic animal, your emotions are just as normal as loving a more traditional pet. Your feelings are determined by the nature of your relationship, not by the kind of animal you love. If you have a child in your home who belongs to a 4-H club and has raised your animal since it was a baby, you may have further issues to consider (refer to the booklet “Helping Children Through a Pet’s Euthanasia”)

If your special companion is facing death, it is important that you treat this situation just as you would with any other pet. Your feelings of grief and loss do not change simply because you feel attached to a pig instead of a dog. Allow yourself the same considerations and support including saying good-bye, taking mementos, and asking for assistance. Just as with exotic pets, euthanasia of your companion may be problematic and it is important to discuss all details with your veterinarian before you decide to be present. Consider taking some kind of memento of your pet (hoofprints, llama hair, wool, etc).

My Last Thought to You... What About Your Needs?

As the old saying goes...I've saved the most important for the last. You may wonder why I'm talking about your needs when it's your companion that is ill. It's simple really, if you don't take care of yourself, you won't be able to take care of your pet. Caring for a terminally ill pet is physically demanding and emotionally exhausting. Deciding to euthanize that beloved pet can be even harder still. Throughout this whole process, you may have neglected your own needs because they seem at the bottom of the priority list. This is not true! If you are going to make it through this with your wits and health intact, you must find a way to take care of yourself. There might not be people around you to remind you of this, so let me be the one to do it...*you need support too*. I know it's hard. It might even feel like just one more "thing to do" but it's really important. Don't consider it to be selfish, consider it to be in your pet's best interest (because it is).

Be aware of the "perfection/guilt trap". Since you love your pet, you expect to be perfect in your decisions and in everything you do. This is simply not possible. You are not an omnipotent being but a human one who is doing the very best you can on a daily basis. The trap is that no one is perfect; but our love for our pets set us up for impossible standards. When we can't meet them, we are guaranteed to feel guilty. When you can't be perfect, ease up on yourself and remember the trap.

Take care of your physical needs. If you do not have the time to rest or make nutritious meals, ask a family member or friend to support you. When we're upset and grieving, it's easy to neglect basic needs but it gets us absolutely nowhere to do so.

The last thing I want to say to you is that although you may feel isolated and alone, **you aren't**. Remember that many of the emotions you are feeling are completely normal and natural. You may, at times feel like

you are “losing your mind,” but there are thousands of pet owners out there who have experienced many of the same feelings. Give yourself the same support that you give so amazingly to your pet. If you are having trouble finding sources of support within your own circle of family and friends, don’t hesitate to reach out to other resources. There are so many pet owners out there who have gone through or are experiencing situations like yours! Don’t go it alone because you simply don’t have to! Visit the support service at www.veterinarywisdom.com to find people and resources that can assist you. Take care of yourself. Just as your pet deserves love and care—**so do you.** I wish you the best.*

* Much of the material in this booklet was adapted from Lagoni, L., Butler, C. and Hetts, S. The Human-Animal Bond and Grief, Philadelphia, PA. W.B.Saunders Co., 1994.

Inside the Veterinary Hospital

As the co-owner of a veterinary hospital and the wife of a veterinarian, I would like to offer you this insight...

Veterinarians and their staff are just like you when it comes to pet illness and euthanasia. Most of them are pet owners themselves and they struggle with exactly the same emotions and decisions that you are dealing with. Although trained to focus on medical information, they are still people who carry with them all the same emotions you and I have. If you are struggling with specific questions or concerns, don't hesitate to talk with them. You may be surprised how receptive they are and what a comfort they can be to you. There is no reason to deal with this alone and you are not being a burden by voicing your concerns or asking for support.

It's easy to assume that your veterinarian is "too busy" to bother, but you may be surprised how much he/she wants to help you with your concerns. Of course, you should always ask your veterinarian if it is a good time to talk keeping in mind that veterinarians do have hectic and very busy schedules. If you are not sure, simply ask him/her if you can have some structured time to talk about things. I've never known a veterinarian who would not want to be approached when it comes to supporting a client! If you truly feel "stuck" in your grief and your veterinarian has already given support and assistance, he/she might refer you to outside assistance with a pet loss counselor or support group. This in no way means that you are being "blown off" or forsaken. It simply means that your veterinarian recognizes his/her limitations and wants to make sure that you receive the best support possible. The mark of a truly ethical veterinarian is one who refers clients to outside assistance when the need arises.

When it comes to the timing of euthanasia, keep in mind that your veterinarian cannot decide for you when it is the right time to euthanize. Your veterinarian does not know your pet the way you do and what would be right for his/her own pet may be very different for yours. Your veterinarian can give you specific medical information and may recommend euthanasia to help guide your decision, but ultimately the decision is yours. This may be very frustrating to you because it would be nice for someone to make the decision for you. However, no matter what you decide, your veterinarian is there to help you and be a supportive partner in the decision-making process.

What is Pet Hospice?

Pet Hospice is not a specific place, but rather a philosophy that promotes an alternative to a pet hospital environment. It functions on the principle that death is a part of life and terminal illness. Not unlike human hospice, pet hospice operates under the premise that death can be experienced with dignity, as an animal rests at home with its loving family. Hospice does not exclude the possibility of euthanasia, but it does allow for the possibility of the pet dying a natural death while at home.

Goals of Pet Hospice:

- Hospice is focused on giving pets a safe, caring, intimate end-of-life experience in their familiar environment.
- Owners are given one-on-one time to adjust to their pet's progressive disease and can say good-bye in their own way.
- Hospice care focuses primarily on providing pain control and physical and emotional comfort to the pet.
- Owners are trained to attune themselves to their pet's physical and emotional needs.
- Hospice helps to make a pet's natural death a kinder, more intimate experience for both pets and owners.
- Hospice is a particular focus on the special, unique bond between a pet and owner and takes into account the very specific needs of both as the terminal illness progresses over time.

Is Pet Hospice right for you and your pet?

Pet Hospice is clearly not appropriate for all clients. It takes a special kind of client with very specific life factors to make the concept of hospice practical and effective.

*Typical questions you should ask yourself before considering hospice are as follows:

- Do I accept that this is a dying animal and we will make no more efforts to cure its illness?
- Have I discussed with my veterinarian my pet's medications and their effects?
- Do I have enough time in my schedule to spend the necessary hours looking after my pet?
- Does my family realize what home pet hospice care will entail?
- Can I cover the projected costs of pet hospice care, at least until I am more prepared to say goodbye to my pet?
- Are there sufficient veterinary staff personnel to support me and my family throughout my pet's decline?
- Will someone be available 24 hours a day if my pet's condition changes?
- What is the expected outcome? How might death occur, and what arrangements will I make following my pet's death?

About the Author

Dana Durrance is a veterinary grief specialist/consultant for World by the Tail, Inc. She is the former director of the nationally renowned Changes Program at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital and has over a decade of experience as a grief counselor, educator and trainer within the veterinary profession.

She is also the co-owner and grief counselor at Mountain Shadows Pet Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado (which she owns with her husband--a small animal veterinarian). She holds a Masters degree in clinical psychology and has a wealth of experience working with hundreds of pet owners as well as training veterinary professionals at national veterinary conferences, veterinary hospitals and schools. She has published in multiple veterinary-related books, journals and textbooks. She has presented at over 45 conferences, seminars, and workshops and is a regular speaker at Alameda East Veterinary Hospital (home of Animals Planet's Emergency Vets).

She lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado with her husband Steve, their daughter Erin, son Noah, and their three dogs.

About the ePublisher

World by the Tail, Inc.

World by the Tail, Inc., honors the emotional power of the human-animal bond. Love. Protectiveness. Gratitude. Grief. These powerful feelings are part and parcel of lives shared with companion animals.

Emotions are meant to be shared and supported. Whether you are a veterinarian, animal health technician, mental health professional or pet lover, World by the Tail, Inc., exists to support your efforts on behalf of companion animals. We want to help you celebrate the good times shared with animals—first days of puppyhood, medical rescues, cat show championships ---as well as deal with the difficulties--- chronic disease, the stress of care giving, terminal illness and companion animal death.

At World by the Tail, we care for people who care for pets.

Contact us at 1-888-271-8444 or online at www.veterinarywisdom.com. We can also be reached via email at info@wbtt.com.



A Personal Note from Us to You

If you are reading this book, you will probably be saying a final good-bye to your beloved pet in the very near future. At World by the Tail, Inc., we understand that this is an emotionally difficult time. Each of us has experienced the grief of pet loss, too.

Because we've been there, we want you to know about a special keepsake that helped each of us cope during the days and weeks following our pets' deaths. That keepsake is a ClayPaws® print.

A ClayPaws® print is a life size impression of your pet's paw set in a modeling clay compound. A ClayPaws® print is as individual as a human fingerprint and is symbolic of the deep relationships we share with our beloved pets. In our experience, ClayPaws® prints are one of the best ways you can pay tribute to the special bond you have shared with your pet.

At World by the Tail, Inc., we manufacture and distribute ClayPaws®, the original paw print kit™, so we can provide comfort to people like you when your companion animals die. We recommend that you make a print for each child and adult in your family.

Our sincere condolences to you for the loss of your pet. If your veterinarian does not offer ClayPaws®, the original paw print kit, please visit us on-line at www.veterinarywisdom.com or call us at 1-888-271-8444 to order.

"I wanted to let you know how much ClayPaws® has meant to us. Satin, our first of two litter mate sisters, passed away July 2004 from cancer. Her sister Silkie passed away in February 2005, also from cancer. Both veterinary hospitals that treated our girls offered us the chance to forever capture additional memories of the "girls" by using your product ClayPaws® to do their paw prints. It has meant the world to us! Thanks again for your product. We wouldn't trade our ClayPaws® prints for anything."

Linda and Ron F., Pet Owners