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Euthanasia advice leaflet.

It is never easy losing a pet and decisions about what to do at this time are often difficult to make. This leaflet explains the options available for you and your pet so that you can plan ahead.

If you have decided on euthanasia for your pet you may have this done at home or at the surgery. A home visit can normally be arranged during the week by contacting the surgery. This is to ensure we can arrange a mutually convenient time to visit you. Home visits are not available at weekends due to staffing constraints. There are additional costs associated with a home visit, which a member of our reception team will be happy to talk through with you. Some pets do get worried when visitors come to the house and try to hide away and it can be more difficult for our nurses to safely restrain your pet at home. For these reasons home visits are not suitable for all pets.

A visit to the surgery can be arranged by phoning to make an appointment and letting the reception team know why you are coming in. This will allow us to book a longer appointment time for you and perhaps arrange your appointment to be at a quieter time.

At the time of euthanasia you may stay with your pet if you wish. We understand that you may find this too difficult and one of our nurses can stay with your pet if you'd prefer. Your cat or dog may have a small catheter inserted into a vein on one of their front legs. The nurse will need to hold your pet at this time. The vet will administer an overdose of anaesthetic into your pet's vein and this will only take a few minutes to take effect. Your pet may lose control of their bowels and they may take some big gasping breaths once they have passed away. This is perfectly normal and is just their nervous system taking a little while to shut down.

Afterwards you may take your pet home to bury them in your garden. We can wrap your pet in a blanket for you to transport them home.

You may choose for your pet to be cremated. The cremation service we use is called Resting Pets. They are based between Moreton and Chipping Ongar in Essex. There are two cremation options available. Your pet can be cremated with other pets and have their ashes scattered at the gardens of remembrance at the pet crematorium. Alternatively you may choose to have your pet cremated individually and have their ashes returned to you. Resting Pets offer to return your pet's ashes in either a scatter box or a casket. These are normally returned to the practice and we will contact you when your pet's ashes are ready to collect. There are additional costs associated with having your pet cremated individually and these will be payable directly to Resting Pets. They will call you directly to arrange payment.

If you would like to speak to a member of staff after your pet has passed away please contact us at anytime. We also have details of a pet bereavement support line.

We hope that this leaflet has answered any questions that you had. If you have any further queries or worries please don't hesitate to contact the practice.