

The Euthanasia Process Explained

Is Euthanasia the right option for me?

Most loving pet owners will agree that the life of a pet, no matter how big or small, should be celebrated in the happiest and most memorable way possible. At Passing Paws, we assist our clients to say goodbye to their beloved pets in the most humane and compassionate way.

Euthanasia Explained

Euthanasia is often a taboo topic that many do not wish to talk about. But, for many pet owners who are caring for suffering or elderly animals, it's a conversation that needs to be had.

Euthanasia is a humane, and pain-free method of allowing your furry friend to go quietly into a more peaceful place. This process allows you to spend their precious last moments with them surrounded by love and companionship.

Don't let the last few memories of your friend be clouded in pain and sadness. Rather remember your pet for the fun-loving, constant companion they were and allow yourself to focus on commemorating the life they lived with happiness and love.



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Passing Paws

SUPPORT BEYOND THE SERVICE

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Home & Vet Euthanasia

Until recently the only option available for families wanting to end their pet's suffering humanely was to visit their local veterinary clinic.

In the case of emergencies and hospitalised patients this service is critical, however if time permits, more families are now choosing to say farewell to their pets in the comfort of their own homes.

The veterinary clinic can be a frightening place for an unwell pet. Barking dogs, loud noises and unfamiliar smells all contribute to a stressful experience for pets and their families. Home euthanasia tends to be a more expensive option, however this is frequently becoming more popular for families who wish to say goodbye in the peace and comfort of their own homes. A peaceful passing at home allows a pet to drift away gently in a calm and compassionate environment, surrounded by their family and familiar smells.

By saying farewell to your pet at home you have the option to invite friends, family members and pets so that everybody can be involved. You can also choose the setting for your final moments, whether your companion is on a blanket in the garden or in the comfort of their own bed.

Children

Whether or not to have your children present is a very personal decision. Sometimes it's good to allow children to learn the experience of loss as a life lesson (in terms appropriate to age). The best thing that a parent can do is to educate their child. Explain what will happen, answer their questions and then maybe let them decide for themselves whether or not they want to participate.

If your child does decide to stay, let them know that they can leave at any time. Perhaps arrange for someone to be with them so that they are not alone and so that your personal involvement in your pet's passing is not interrupted.

Other Pets

Losing a pet can be overwhelming, not just for ourselves but also for our other fur babies who remain with us. Our pets may not understand the significance of another pet passing away, however they may certainly notice their absence. Our pets are also very sensitive to our human emotions, so it's possible that they will pick up on your sadness and feel some anxiety as a result.

Some families choose to have their other pets in attendance during the procedure, but others find that it can be distracting.

Cultures and Traditions

We understand that families in Western Australia come from a variety of different backgrounds, traditions and ethnicities. It is our sincere wish to respect and include these cultures and beliefs in the services we deliver. Whether you are Christian, Atheist, Australian Aboriginal, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist, Islamist or even if you have a family tradition you wish to honour, Passing Paws will endeavour to accommodate your requests as best as we can.

The Procedure

If you have had a pet euthanised before you will have an awareness of what will happen during this procedure. If you have not, it is a good idea to read this section, so that you are aware of what will happen.

To enable the euthanasia process to be as peaceful as possible, often the vet will recommend that a sedative injection is given first. This allows your pet to gently fall asleep and prevents any distress from the noise of clippers, or being held by anyone other than you for the euthanasia injection.

If your pet is to have a euthanasia injection into the leg, an intravenous cannula is often placed.

Before the vet gives the injection, they will usually ask you if you are ready so that you can hold your pet in the final moments while they slip away. This usually happens quickly - often in less than a minute. The injection is not painful and if your pet has been sedated in advance then they are usually not aware of anything.