

# Euthanasia Resources

## Saying Goodbye: Humane Euthanasia

When it is time to say goodbye to your beloved companion, you may have questions about the euthanasia procedure and options available for your pet. We know that this is a very difficult decision, and we are here to support you through the process.

### Where Can Euthanasia be Performed?

Most general practice veterinarians provide euthanasia services during regular business hours. At MedVet Cincinnati, our ER doctors are available 24/7 if your pet should require euthanasia on an urgent basis. Our specialty departments are also available for long-term patients. Some pet owners prefer to arrange for at-home euthanasia, and there are several Cincinnati-area options:

- Angel's Paws, [www.angelpaws.com](http://www.angelpaws.com), 513.489.7297
- Lap of Love, [www.lapoflove.com](http://www.lapoflove.com), 513.445.5893

### What Decisions Need to be Made at the Time of Euthanasia?

Once you have determined that euthanasia is the best decision for your pet, we will ask you to verbally authorize or sign your consent for the euthanasia procedure. You can decide if you'd like to spend time visiting with your pet prior to euthanasia, and if you'd like to be present for the euthanasia procedure itself. The decision to be present in the room at time of your pet's euthanasia is a personal choice that only you can make. There is no right or wrong approach to saying goodbye.

We will also ask you to decide about after-care for your pet's remains. You can decide if you'd like to take your pet home for burial or have your pet cremated.

At MedVet Cincinnati, we work with an animal cremation facility called Faithful Companion (visit [www.faithfulcompanion.com](http://www.faithfulcompanion.com) for more information). After euthanasia, they will transport your pet from MedVet to their facility for private or communal cremation, with return of your pet's ashes if you wish.

### What Happens During Euthanasia?

First, you and any family members will be settled into a private, quiet space with your pet. Next, we will borrow your pet for placement of an intravenous catheter in their leg; this will allow us to administer the necessary medications at the time of euthanasia. After catheter placement, we will bring your pet back so you can visit.

When you are ready, you'll let us know and the doctor will come in. The euthanasia process is gentle and painless, and you can be next to, petting, or holding your pet during the procedure if you wish. We typically administer a sedative injection first to relax your pet, and then administer the euthanasia injection. The injection will rapidly, painlessly stop your pet's heart, and relieve their suffering.

### What Mementos can be Saved in Memory of Your Pet?

Many pet owners treasure mementos after their pet has passed. Based on your wishes, we can make ink paw and nose prints, and save fur clippings. Faithful Companion also creates a clay paw print for pets undergoing private cremation. In addition, if you elect for private cremation, your pet's ashes will be returned so you can save them in an urn or scatter at one of your pet's favorite places.