



My Pet's Last Days

We all hope that our pets will pass away quietly in their sleep after they have been with us for many years. Unfortunately, that's not usually the case.



Your pet may be killed in an accident or have a sudden illness that takes his life rapidly. In other cases, your pet may have a chronic disease that gradually affects his quality of life over time.

Regardless of how our pet passes away, it is always a difficult and traumatic time. The most common reaction is guilt.

We feel guilty over all the things we did, all the things we didn't do, for deciding to euthanize too soon, for waiting too long, for allowing the accident to happen, for not paying attention, for whatever our mind can come up with that we should have done differently.

The list goes on and on and we can beat ourselves up pretty badly. Recognize that guilt is normal and it's part of grieving. Also, remember, that you did the best you could for your pet at the time.

If your pet is seriously ill, you have decisions to make. You may have to decide whether you should treat your pet or not. There isn't always an easy answer and you need to consider several factors. Find out what is involved with treating your pet and decide if you will be able to do any at-home treatments required. Will your pet live a longer life if you do the treatment, or will it only buy a little more time?

You need to ask how much it will cost including medicine and tests. Most of us are on a budget and this has to be part of our decision. Many of us cannot afford several thousands of dollars and some illnesses add up quickly. If you never want to feel you didn't treat your pet because you couldn't afford it, we advise you look into pet insurance as soon as possible.

If your pet has been sick a while you may be wondering if it's time to let him go. Ask your veterinarian whether your pet is suffering. If yes, then it's clear that the time is now.

However, if it's not that clear, then consider what your pet's quality of life is like. Does your pet have more good days than bad? Does he still spend time interacting with the family and is he still eating? The answers to these questions will help you.

It's never easy to lose a beloved pet. We hope your pet has lived a long life and you have many memories to give you comfort.



However, young pets can pass away too early and we mourn all the lost years we could have had with them.

You can grieve as much, or even more, for the loss of a beloved pet as you do for a human family member. We love them so much and they give so much back to us. It takes time to heal. Give yourself permission to do that.