

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

Humane Euthanasia

Humane euthanasia is an important part of life for most pet owners. This process is unique to veterinary medicine and in most ways, "a very good thing." The procedure allows us to end pain and suffering, and in my opinion, give our best friends a dignified exit from this world.

Clients frequently ask, "how will I know it is time?" The answer varies, but, if we have to give an answer, I usually tell clients to make a list all of the favourite things that their pets would do when they were healthy. If the pets are not doing at least 50% of the items on the list, euthanasia may be a consideration. Unless circumstances prohibit, this very important decision should be discussed with family, friends, and your veterinarian.

Another common question: "Is my pet suffering?" There are all types of pain and suffering and we can tolerate a certain amount of this as long as an end is in sight. For example, surgery results in pain and possibly suffering, however once the healing process begins, we know that it will dissipate. If you feel that your pet is experiencing constant pain or suffering, euthanasia may be a consideration.

This topic is very difficult to discuss, and it is by far one of the hardest parts of being a veterinarian; however, I look at it as a final gift that we can give our best friends to help them journey across the rainbow bridge.

Submitted by: Dr. Spencer



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