

What happens next?

Before or after euthanasia you may want to consider having a small keepsake of your pet such as their collar or name tag, a paw print, or a small tuft of their fur. You may want to take your pet home to bury in the garden or use a pet cemetery. Another choice is cremation. The vet will be able to discuss the options with you and explain the costs of each. Pets may be cremated individually or communally with others. If your pet is cremated individually you will have the ashes returned to you in a casket to keep or scatter them in a favourite spot.



A communal cremation means that you will not be able to have your pet's ashes returned. Either way, you can expect your pet will be treated with dignity and respect.

Please do ask as many questions as possible about the options available and the likely costs involved.

You can remember your pet in a special way by planting flowers or a shrub, making a special photo album or by creating a lasting memorial online by visiting www.bluecross.org.uk



Consulting Times

Freckleton Surgery

Monday

8.30am to 8pm

Tuesday

8.30am to 6.30pm

Wednesday to Friday

8.30am to 7pm

Saturday

8.30am to 1pm



Blackpool Surgery

Monday to Friday

8.30am to 6pm

Saturday

8.30am to 11am



When the time comes

Rowan Veterinary Centre

Hillock Lane

Freckleton

Preston

Lancashire

PR4 1TP

01772 639800

The Old Bank

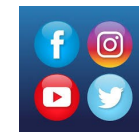
369 Whitegate Drive

Blackpool

FY3 9PH

01253 766352

www.rowanvets.co.uk



Euthanasia—a peaceful end

If we have pets in our lives, sooner or later it's likely we may have to make a decision and act in their best interests concerning the end of their life. Sadly, our pets have a much shorter life than us and when illness, injury or old age affects their quality of life, we may need to start thinking about letting them go, peacefully. It's important to talk it through with one of our vets so they can help you to guide, plan and prepare.

Euthanasia offers a peaceful and painless end to our pet's life. Sometimes people use the phrase "put to sleep" or "put down", but euthanasia is the proper term.



Support for you

It can be a time of mixed and raw emotions leading up to and following euthanasia and the death of your beloved pet. Your pet has been a special companion and member of the family. Some people experience intense feelings of grief, similar to a human loss. Often people describe feelings of guilt or numbness over their loss and this is normal and understandable. For others, there is a sense of calm and relief. Sharing your feelings and experience with others beforehand and after euthanasia can be helpful.

Here at Rowan we are able to offer advice and guidance throughout, offering a service to help you cope with this emotional time. We are able to process payment before the procedure so that you can spend time with your pet before and after, allowing you to leave when you are ready.

If you prefer, we can come to your home and help your pet pass with their family and in familiar

surroundings. Just call detailing what service you would like, pay over the phone and a vet and nurse will be scheduled to come to your home at a convenient time.

When is the right time?

Sometimes it is difficult to know how our pet is really feeling. They can't tell us if they are in pain so it's our responsibility to look for signs of any changes that suggest that their quality of life is deteriorating. You may notice your pet has become particularly withdrawn or quiet and doesn't want any physical contact or to go out. They may have stopped eating or drinking, and their toilet habits may have changed. An injury or illness may be affecting their wellbeing. To prevent further pain and unnecessary suffering it is important to talk through options with the vet who will help to guide you on the right time for making a decision about euthanasia.

Should I be there?

It's a very personal decision. If you have friends and family, talk it through. Some people prefer to be with their pet before euthanasia only, others before and during euthanasia while others feel it's just too difficult and feel unable to stay, preferring to say goodbye afterwards. It's your decision; let the vet or vet nurse know.

What can I expect

You may want to think about where you would prefer the euthanasia to take place. It may be here at the surgery at an arranged time or it may be possible for a vet to come to your home. Talk to us about this. You will be asked to sign a form giving your permission and the euthanasia will be carried out by a vet with a nurse to assist. You may want to ask for your pet to be given a sedative first to help relax them. A small patch of fur is shaved, usually from a front leg, and an injection is gently administered into a vein.

This is a high dose of anaesthetic. As the injection is given your pet will lose consciousness within seconds. Their breathing and their heart will stop.

Sometimes, especially if your pet is very old or frail, or if they have had a sedative, the vet may have difficulty in locating a vein and may instead have to inject into another area of the body.

If your pet is a small animal such as a hamster or rabbit, the vet may give them anaesthetic gas first so that they are asleep for the injection. These pets have smaller blood vessels and the injection is likely to be given into another area of the body.

It is important to remember that your pet will lose consciousness almost immediately and will not be aware of anything.

What to expect afterwards?

Your pet's eyes will probably remain open, their muscles may twitch and there might be an involuntary gasp or two. These are normal reactions after a death. The vet will make sure that euthanasia has been completed and that your pet's heart has stopped beating.

