



Greenbay Vets

34 Walnut Road, TQ2 6HS

01803 606059

79 Kingsway Avenue, TQ4 7AB

01803 843836

info@greenbayvets.co.uk

www.greenbayvets.co.uk

PREPARING FOR THE EUTHANASIA OF YOUR PET

We always fear losing our pets that mean so much to us. Nevertheless, that time inevitably does come. So how do we, as pet owners, face euthanasia?

Making the decision

Deciding to have your pet put to sleep, and knowing when the time is right is always very difficult. We strive to support you during this time and you are welcome to talk to any of our team or book a pre-euthanasia consultation with a vet in person or over the telephone.

Making the appointment

Speak to one of our team and schedule the appointment to suit yourselves. You might request that your appointment be the last one of the day or first one in the morning to give you more time in your appointment. It is also possible for us to arrange to do a home visit. If you have never been through this experience before let us know, as we can explain what you would like to know and what to expect regarding the procedure.

The euthanasia appointment ... to be there or not?

It is your personal choice whether or not you would like to be present during the procedure. Many people like to be there and it can have a calming effect on your pet. Some choose to stay in the waiting room during the procedure and then visit their pet afterwards, spending a few moments in private.

The procedure

In order to administer the injection (which is an overdose of anaesthetic) we must gain entry into a vein. This requires your pet to be calm – if the veterinary surgeon requests your permission to sedate your pet, please understand this is only to make the procedure a lot nicer for your pet. This sometimes happens in older, anxious or afraid pets. A veterinary nurse will then help hold your pet and will put a slight amount of pressure onto a vein usually in the foreleg. This allows the vet to see the vein better, who will then proceed with the injection. Whilst this is going on you can cuddle and comfort your pet as you normally would.

Afterwards

You have the right to take your pet home for burial or you may choose to leave your pet with us for cremation. There are two choices, either 'routine cremation' where your pet will be cremated alongside other pets, or 'individual cremation' where he/she will be cremated on their own and you will receive their ashes back in a casket of your choice. It is possible to discuss the options

in more detail prior to the appointment, so that everything is arranged. We use a local family-run crematorium, Meadow Wood, which has built up an exceptionally good rapport with us over the years, so you do not need to worry that your pet is not in safe hands.

For that extra support...

There are a number of support groups who specialise in pet loss counselling if you need that extra chat. Never feel ashamed for having strong feelings over the loss of your pet, you are not alone. Here are the details of one service -

The **Pet Bereavement Support Service** (which is part of the Blue Cross for Pets) is a telephone helpline and email service that offers support to bereaved pet owners, through a national network of trained volunteer befrienders. Telephone 0800 096 6606 (seven days a week 8.30am-8.30pm).