

Children & Pet Loss

It can be difficult for children to come to terms with the death of a pet, as they may not understand the situation. In some cases, it may not be appropriate to go into detail about how your pet died. Nevertheless, you should try to answer your children's questions as honestly as you can. It is important that they understand that your pet will not be coming home.



Pets & Grief

Animals can form very firm attachments to each other, so other pet's in your home may exhibit signs of grief after the loss of a companion. Some ways to help your pet's with their grief could be to keep routines as normal as possible, try not unintentionally reinforce the behaviour changes & if you have a multi-pet household, to let your pets work out the new dominance hierarchy themselves.

Healing

Ways that you can help yourself in the grieving process.

Give yourself permission to grieve

Memorialize your pet

Surround yourself with people who understand you loss

Learn all about the grief process

Accept the feelings that come with grief

Be patient with yourself

Give yourself permission to backslide

Don't be afraid to get help

Pets At Peace - 63611001

Lifeline - 13 11 14

Kids HelpLine - 1800 55 1800

OPENING HOURS

MONDAY—FRIDAY
8.30AM—5.30PM

SATURDAY:
8.30AM—12.00PM

Email: orangevet@orangevet.com.au

Website: www.orangevet.com.au

www.facebook.com/orangevethospital



Euthanasia & Grief



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Euthanasia

Grief is a normal response to any important loss of life. It occurs regardless of whether death followed a prolonged illness, or a sudden accident. Grieving people experience both physical & emotional traumas as they try to adapt to the upheaval in their lives brought about by the loss of their pet.

Your relationship with your pet is special & here at Orange Veterinary Hospital we understand & value the relationship that you have with them.

There are many options in regards to euthanasia such as, if you would like to come to our hospital, or if you would prefer us to come to your home?

There are also options regarding handling your pets remains after euthanasia. We can take care of your pets remains for you or you can take them home for burial. We also recommend 'Pets At Peace' if you wish for a cremation service for your pet.

You can discuss the care of your pets remains with your veterinarian before or after the euthanasia process.

Stages of Grief

Each person experiences grief in different ways, and most people will go through different stages of grief at their own pace. There is no time limit to how long a person should be in one stage or another, but understanding the different stages may help you to understand your own circumstance.

Shock & Denial

Reality of death has not been accepted & you may feel like the situation is "unreal"

Anger

Lashing out at family, friends, yourself, God, the veterinarian or nurse. Feelings of guilt or fear are common.

Bargaining

Bereaved asked for a deal or reward e.g. "I'll go to church every day if..."

Depression

Feeling sad, hopeless, drained or helpless. A reaction to the changed way of life created by the loss.

Acceptance

Comes around when the changes are stabilized into a new lifestyle.