Pet PASSAGES
DIGNIFIED PET CREMATION®

A pet parent's guide to

Planning Ahead



Planning Ahead

Our Guide to Planning Ahead is intended to help you think about your pet's final arrangements and to make the most appropriate decisions regarding your pet and your family's wishes.

Doing so will help ensure that your pet receives the same loving care and attention to death that you provided for them in life. Preparing yourself in advance for the death of your pet, while emotionally taxing, is a wise and thoughtful thing to do. Certainly, none of us wish to think of that day. However, careful and conscientious planning ahead of time will give you and your family the opportunity to discuss how you will care for your pet's physical remains, memorialize your beloved pet, and celebrate the life that you all shared together.

Through advanced planning and careful consideration of all available options, you and your family will be confident with the decisions that you made when that difficult day arrives. Knowing exactly what to do will not only ensure that your pet receives the highest level of respect and care in a very timely fashion but it will also help eliminate the stress and uncertainty that can accompany a loss. This peace of mind is the ultimate support you will need and appreciate as a grieving pet parent.



Final Arrangements

What are your final arrangement wishes for your pet's body?
❑ Cremation ❑ Burial

Cremation

Will you want the ashes returned?
❑ Yes ❑ No

If your answer is yes, do you want:

A truly private cremation
(your pet is the only pet in the cremation unit)
❑ Yes ❑ No

A semi private cremation
(several pets will be cremated at the same time with each pet having its own private segregated section in the cremation unit - this is what most pet cremation providers call a private cremation)
❑ Yes ❑ No

If your answer is no, then you need to ask your Pet Funeral Director for a "group" or "communal" cremation. Your pet will be cremated with other pets without any means of separation and their commingled ashes will be scattered in a designated area.
❑ Yes ❑ No
(Please see our website for pricing of our cremation services.)

Burial

Where?
❑ Home ❑ Local Pet Cemetery ❑ Other _____
(When considering a burial, research whether your town, county, or development will allow pet burials. Also, think about how important it is to stay in the area in which you live and to have access to your pet's burial site)

Will you want a casket to protect your pet's body?
❑ Yes ❑ No

If yes, please see available options online at **mohawkvalley.ny.petpassages.com.**

Final Goodbye

Many families consider a special visitation or wake after the death of their pet. While this may seem morbid and odd, many families need one last time to visit their pet after death. When the family pet dies, it is often the child's first exposure to death and can cause him or her to feel confused and upset. The gathering of family during this visitation helps the child understand death, supports them in their grieving process and is used as a valuable tool for parents in explaining death as a natural event in life.

Many times, family members, friends and other pets in the household will want to have their final goodbye with your pet too. Pets touch so many people during their short lives with us. Allow those around you the opportunity to come together, pay their respects and support each other. Please know that our staff has been trained in the proper procedures and care techniques to ensure that your pet is groomed and presentable for the final goodbye.

My family and I will want a final goodbye time with our pet:
❑ Yes ❑ No
(Please be sure to mark your decision on our Secure Passages cremation authorization form at time of request for services.)



The Remembrance/ Funeral Service

It is common for families to incorporate their traditional family or religious rituals into the final goodbye. Some families will elect to choose a separate date and location for such an event. Regardless of your decision, we have provided some suggested ideas to consider when planning a pet funeral service. Please know that our Pet Funeral Directors are specially trained and have experience in creating Remembrance/Funeral Services. They would be honored to assist you in planning a meaningful memorial service for your beloved pet.

Services may include:

- Special readings
- Rituals that you and your pet did to say "I love you"
- A candle lighting tribute
- Reading of special poems and remembrances
- Sharing videos of the pet and your family
- The planting of a tree, flower or bush
- Scripture readings
- A donation drive for a local shelter in memory of your pet
- Playing audio tapes of your pet's meow, bark or chirp
- Reading of a eulogy to remember your pet's life

My family and I will want a Remembrance Service to honor our pet:

❑ Yes ❑ No



Memorialization Options

Choosing appropriate memorial products is a very personal decision.

It should be based on your lifestyle, your personal tastes and the items that reflect your pet's personality. It's also important to take into consideration where these pieces will be placed in your home or yard. You may want the items to blend in with existing décor and landscaping or make them stand out. The personalization of your memorial pieces will truly make them as unique as your relationship with your pet. From a personal inscription on an urn or jewelry piece, to a verse on a rock or marker, your sentimental words will create a true reflection of the love that you shared with your special pet. Pet ceremonies and memorial pieces are unique to every individual. Friends and other family members may or may not understand the need for such remembrances. However, these memorial items help ease the grieving process and serve as lasting tributes that honor your pet companion.

Consider the various memorial products from Pet Passages®

- An urn that is reflective of your decorating style
- An urn with paw prints to show your love of animals
- Locket jewelry to hold a bit of your pet's ashes or fur
- Jewelry that displays your pet's own paw or nose print
- Rocks/garden flagstones
- An eco-friendly urn for burial in a special location
- A piece of art created to depict your pet's personality
- A frame to hold a cast of your pet's paw print, nose print or a locket of fur clipping

For a complete listing of all available products and options, please visit us online at **mohawkvalley.ny.petpassages.com.**

Your Pet's Story

Grieving pet families can now take advantage of an online memorial pet tribute.

Similar in concept to the online tribute websites available for human family members, our full-featured online pet memorials, Pet Tales™, will give you and your friends and family members unique ways to pay tribute to your pet including:

- The lighting of memorial candles
- A gallery of treasured photographic memories
- Personal messages of condolence
- Music
- Ability to tell their story via social media

If a Pet Tales™ online tribute dedicated to the memory of your pet seems like a wonderful way to pay tribute to your loyal companion, then please visit Pet Tales™ at **mohawkvalley.ny.petpassages.com.**



USE THIS AREA TO HELP PLAN AND DESIGN A REMEMBRANCE/FUNERAL SERVICE

Pet's Name _____

Birth Date/Gotcha Date – Date of Death _____

Where Born/Where Gotcha'd _____

Nicknames _____

Pet Parents _____

Siblings (Pet and Human) _____

_____

_____

Favorite Toy(s) _____

Least Favorite Thing _____

Favorite Activity(ies) _____

Other Friends _____

Favorite Place to Sleep _____

Favorite Food _____

Favorite Memories _____

_____

_____

Once this form is complete, please send it to us for safe keeping. When the day comes and you need our services, we will simply access your file and review your careful and thoughtful decisions. We will assist you with your pet's final arrangements and follow your wishes.



To me, there is no greater responsibility than honoring and preserving the story and memories of a family's beloved pet.

We care for your pet companion the same way we would treat any other member of your family. Pet Passages® is fully committed to helping families say goodbye to their pet in a loving and dignified manner.

Michael T. Harris
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT OF PET PASSAGES®

Pet PASSAGES
DIGNIFIED PET CREMATION®

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