



Maidstone Veterinary Clinic

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EUTHANASIA

The term 'Euthanasia' or 'Putting to Sleep' is when an animal's life is humanely and painlessly ended. It is a very emotional time for everybody in the family but unfortunately there comes a time when we have to make this decision for our pet. Many people ask us "When is the right time?" There is no simple answer to this but a good guide line is when your pet does not have any QUALITY to his or her life or when there is pain that is uncontrollable. We as vets can advise you as to when an animal is suffering and this makes the "decision making" easier.

The difficult cases are the pets which have aged gracefully and are starting to be effected by this aging process. We live in hope that our beloved pet will drift off quietly in the night but unfortunately that doesn't always happen. Because, as owners, we are responsible for our pet's well-being, we sometimes have to act in our pet's best interest. By choosing euthanasia for our pets we are doing the best for them and putting their needs ahead of our own.

HOW IS IT PERFORMED ?

Euthanasia is performed by giving your pet an intravenous injection of an overdose of an anaesthetic drug. The injection is given into a vein in the front leg and the pet passes away quietly and painlessly by the end of the injection.

SHOULD I DISCUSS IT WITH MY FAMILY ?

Once you have made the hard decision to have your pet euthanased the next thing to do is discuss it with your family. In our experience it is best to be honest with your children and to consider their wishes in regard to their presence during the procedure and seeing their pet afterwards. All of these things help in their grieving process.

WHEN AND WHERE CAN IT BE PERFORMED?

The next decision that has to be made is where the euthanasia is to be performed. This can be carried out in the clinic or we can arrange house calls during normal working hours from Monday to Friday. We offer this house call service because we know it is a very difficult time and we appreciate that it can be easier for both you and your pet if we come to your house.

AFTERCARE

Our clinic offers you a range of options with the aftercare of your pet:

1. We can take care of your pet after the euthanasia
2. You can take your pet home to bury
3. We can get your pet cremated without the ashes being returned to you.
4. We can get your pet cremated with the ashes being returned to you. The ashes are returned in a small gift box , however we can offer you a natural timber or ceramic urn.

We understand this is a very difficult time for you and your family. It is also a very emotional time so we appreciate if you need some private time alone after the consultation.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to discuss it with our staff.

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