



Euthanasia... What to Expect

How do you decide when the time has arrived? Are you making the right decision for your best friend and yourself?

It is very normal to feel extremely emotional and to doubt your decision making at this time. It is most important though that the decision is one that you can feel at peace with. No one should ever force you to make the decision especially when you feel that your beloved companion is not yet ready to leave.

You need to be strong for your best friend in their last few days and to consider what is best for them - to be brave and remind yourself that what we do now has to be in their best interests, not ours. Letting go is so terribly hard but seeing them suffer further is even harder. There will often be some regret in making a decision to euthanize your beloved friend (and this is normal), however, you don't want to regret later that you held on too long.

Sometimes, it is not clear whether their quality of life is acceptable to them, and unfortunately, your pet may not always let you know it is time. Many pets will often try to show you they are fine when in fact, they are suffering.

If you need help determining whether their quality of life is acceptable, give us a call or book a consult with a veterinarian. Something else you can do at home, consider your cat or dog's five favourite activities. Whether it is going for a walk, getting groomed, going for a drive, eating their favourite food. Once they reach a point where these activities don't create a spark, it might be time to consider euthanasia as the most compassionate and dignified way to say farewell. Give us a call for further advice or to arrange an appointment.

When the time comes there are some options to consider and think about before you come into the vet. There is the time, process and what to do after the event. Please find the form attached, with some questions and information you can bring with you for the appointment.

To download the Euthanasia Preparation Form click [here](#).

Links:

Beyond Blue - <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/grief-and-loss>

Pet Loss - <http://www.pet-loss.net/>

RSPCA - <http://www.rspcavic.org/services/grieving-for-a-lost-pet>

Euthanasia Plan

Please bring this form with you on the day or email to info@almavet.com.au

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pets Name: _____ Species: _____

Colour: _____ Breed: _____ Age: _____

I certify that I am the legal owner or duly authorised agent for the owner of the above animal and hereby give Alma Street Veterinary Hospital complete authority to euthanise and dispose or hold for cremation of said animal in a humane manner.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I request that this animal's remains be cared for in the following manger:

- Private Cremation – The owner to organise with one of the following companies, the remains will then be collected from Alma Street Veterinary Hospital by your chosen agency.

Rainbow Bridge – 49341365 - Angels for Pets – 0427 396 319

- Group Cremation – Pets are cremated and the ashes a spread over the gardens at Alton Downs Boarding Kennel (Rainbow Bridge). (Please Note: You do not receive ashes back with this option)

- Take your pet home for burial

Do you wish to be present during the consultation?

- Be in the consult and stay during the process.
 Meet with the vet and then leave.

Would you like us to email you a copy of the certificate for council registration and/or insurance purposes? Yes / No

Would you like to take your pet collar home? Yes / No

Would you like a clipping of your pet's hair? Yes / No

The process:

On the day when you arrive for the appointment please present to reception. This is a good time to pay, so you are not worrying about it after the consultation. Reception will try to place you in a consultation as soon as possible. Sometimes there may be a delay in this depending on a vacant consultation room.

A vet will meet with you, discuss your options, and go through the above questions. You will need to sign a consent form giving Alma Street Veterinary Hospital the authority to perform the euthanasia. Once this is complete you have the option to stay with your pet or leave the room.

The vet will place a catheter into your pet's front leg and give them an anaesthetic. When your pet is anaesthetised, and you are ready the Vet will give the final injection. Please be aware that the process is VERY quick and can sometimes catch you by surprise. Another point to mention is that they won't close their eyes. The Vet will then give you time until you are ready to leave.

If you are taking your beloved pet home, we will wrap them up in a bag and towel ready to take home. If you have opted for a group or private cremation, we will take care of them until a cremation agency comes to collect them.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call 49228138.