

# *When It's Time To Say Goodbye....*

## **1. *Would you like to be present when your pet is euthanized?***

Yes       No

This is a very personal decision. On one hand, you may not want your pet to be without you in his or her final moments, but on the other hand you may not want to witness your pet's death. There is no right answer, and you should do whatever you feel is best for you and your pet.

If you wish to be present, an intravenous catheter will be placed. The intravenous catheter serves several purposes. First, the euthanasia solution is painful if administered outside the vein. The catheter ensures clean access to the vein, even if you are holding your pet. The catheter also allows for a sedative to be administered prior to the euthanasia solution.

The drug used in euthanasia is a barbiturate anesthetic called pentobarbital. Pentobarbital depresses the respiratory and vasomotor centers in the brain at euthanasia dosages. Phenytoin is added to the pentobarbital to hasten the stoppage of electrical activity in the heart.

## **2. *Have you considered what to do with your pet after his or her death?***

- Traditional Cremation.** Each pet is individually cremated. Ashes will be placed in a wooden urn and returned directly to River Road Animal Hospital (unless otherwise specified). Specialty urn options are available on request.
- Communal Cremation.** Pets are cremated in groups and no ashes are returned.
- Home Burial.** If you would like to take your pet home, please let us know and we will properly prepare them based on their size. If you have questions about whether your pet can or should be buried at home, please let us know.
  - o Other urn options are available. Some are in our "Pet Loss" book, and others can be seen online at [www.dogurns.com](http://www.dogurns.com), store # 29577. If you would like to choose an urn at home and call us with your choice, please let us know. Additional charges will apply.
  - o Simple plastic urns suitable for scattering of ashes are available at no additional charge.
  - o Ashes may be shipped to an address other than the hospital. Cremations may be attended by owners, family, etc. Please ask for details.
  - o Would you like a lock of hair from your pet?  Yes       No

## **3. *Would you like a necropsy (animal autopsy) performed to determine the cause of illness or death?***

Note: Certain guidelines apply. Gross necropsy (visual examination of the abdominal and thoracic organs) can be performed in house. More involved necropsy (to evaluate for infection, toxin exposure or non-observable cancers) must be done by a pathology laboratory.

Yes       No

**4. Would you like to make a donation in your pet's name to any of the following charities?**

- **River Road Animal Hospital Good Samaritan's Fund**  
*(Our fund provides treatment to un-owned abused or rescued pets and wildlife)*
- **Paw's Place** (Winnabow, NC)
- **S.O.A.R.** (Oak Island, NC)
- **Brunswick Animal League** (Shallotte, NC)
- **Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter** (Oak Island, NC)
- **Other** (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Would you like to make your pet's remains available for educational purposes before burial or cremation?**

All animals will be treated humanely and used for either anatomical or surgical education and training. All incisions will be closed before either burial or cremation.

**Yes**       **No**

**EUTHANASIA AND ASSOCIATED COSTS:**

Euthanasia (includes catheter if you choose to be present and burial preparation):

0-25	pounds	\$62
25-50	pounds	\$71
>50	pounds	\$78

Traditional Cremation (wooden urn)

S	0-29	pounds	\$170
M	30-59	pounds	\$210
L	60-89	pounds	\$235
XL	90-149	pounds	\$275
G	150-199	pounds	\$295

Communal Cremation (no ashes returned)      \$78

Attended Cremation by Appointment      \$50

Home Pickup / Delivery of Ashes      \$50

Simple Plastic Urn (suitable for scattering ashes)      (no additional charge)

Specialty Urns      *please see our "Pet Loss" book*

Necropsy      In House      \$50-100

Pathology Laboratory      *please ask for assistance*