

SOUTH COAST VET CARE ~ ANIMAL MATTERS

EUTHANASIA

As humans, we have the stewardship of the animals in our care and should act responsibly towards them. Animals are thinking, feeling creatures and deserve to be treated with respect and compassion.

A commonly asked question is when you should have a sick or suffering animal put to sleep, the following may serve as a guide for you:

If their eyes are no longer shiny and bright with the enthusiasm for daily life, you have to judge whether the animal's quality of life is mostly good, but with some discomfort from a problem that can be treated. They may be able to continue reasonably well if the pain or discomfort is properly managed.

When an animal grows old it should not have to be miserable with pain just because of arthritis or other problems. These things are more likely to occur as the animal ages, but that does not mean that nothing can be done about them.

If an animal's life is mostly unhappy, then that is the time to call a halt to things. If you cannot make this decision make sure you talk with your vet, because a physical examination may show up problems that can either be treated or not treated and this will likely influence your decision.

The euthanasia of a cat or dog is generally done by a lethal injection into a vein, giving an overdose of a very strong anaesthetic. The animal normally goes into a light level of anaesthesia followed by a deeper level, before becoming unconscious and subsequently passing away. If an animal is frightened it can be given a sedative first.

After your pet has been put to sleep (euthanased) you may to take the body home to bury them under a favourite bush or tree. Otherwise, we can organise for a company called Paws To Reflect, to will collect the body from Our Clinic for you and have it cremated. If desired, the ashes can be returned to you. They have many options for you to choose from including scatter packs, ceramic urns, picture boxes, sandstone garden urns, ash keepsake pendants and keyrings. If you wish to contact them, their number is 8552 6356.

In each case it is good to remember the happy times that you have had with your pet rather than just dwell on the fact that your pet has died. Most people's lives are all the richer for having had a pet and we sympathise with you for the decision that lay ahead.