



Frequently Asked Questions

Should my other pets be present for home euthanasia?

There is no right or wrong answer to this question. If your other family pets are calm and won't be distracting, then their presence may indeed be comforting. Pets that are high energy and rambunctious; however, may disallow the doctor, and you, to focus attention on the patient. If your other pets are not present during the euthanasia, they may certainly visit afterwards.

Is euthanasia painful?

No, euthanasia is not painful. The sedative that I give pets before euthanasia is actually a general anesthetic so it slowly and gently stops the brain from being aware of any stimulus.

If I chose private cremation will I be guaranteed to get my pet's ashes back?

100% yes. Private cremation is where only your pet is cremated and only your pet's ashes are returned to you. You may even elect to have your pet cremated with a special blanket or toy or t-shirt. Paws To Heaven is the family owned crematory that I have used for over 15 years. My own animals have been entrusted to them. You may even go to Paws To Heaven and witness or be present for the entire process.

Should my children be present for the euthanasia?

Not being a parent, I will fail miserably in giving parental advice! I cannot answer a definitive yes or no to this question. I can say that I have never, not once, been aware of an owner regretting having their children present (regardless of the child's age). Given the enormous amount of love and compassion present during an at home euthanasia, I believe most children would benefit and add to that space of love.

Can I euthanize my pet outside?

Yes! One of the wonderful aspects of at home euthanasia is that you can chose exactly where you would like to put your pet to sleep. We can do inside, we can do outside, we can do by candlelight and we can do at sunrise.

Does the sedative injection hurt?

Over 90% of pets do not even notice when I give the sedative injection. Of the small percentage of pets that do notice, they do not react as if the injection is painful. They seem to merely have noticed I have touched or handled them.

What physical changes can I expect?

The sedative injection slowly takes effect over a couple of minutes. During this time a pet will clearly demonstrate that he or she is becoming relaxed and sleepy. In rare cases we need to give additional medication to ensure complete sedation is achieved. At this point we will place a towel and absorbent pad under your pet because we can expect a release of urine or stool. We then place an IV catheter so we can administer the euthanasia injection. This injection takes effect very quickly...over 1-2 minutes usually. At this point we may or may not see a change in breathing pattern: the breathing may slowly subside or it may speed up for a short time (rarely does the pattern become irregular). All of the changes in breathing patterns we see are normal and expected and are not a sign of discomfort. Your pet's eyes will remain open and this is natural and normal. After a couple of minutes I will confirm that the euthanasia has been complete.

Should I worry if my pet is aggressive?

Home euthanasia may still a great option even if your pet is aggressive. It may be a better option due to the probability that an aggressive pet will be more relaxed in the home environment. As long as we have an open and honest conversation about the possibility of aggression, we can work together to ensure we all stay safe and your pet is well and truly and kindly cared for.