

**When the time comes to say goodbye**

**Euthanasia information sheet**

When the time comes to say goodbye to your beloved pet we want to be able to support you and enable your pet to be as comfortable as possible, as we appreciate this is a very difficult time for your family.

Please have a read of our information sheet 'How to know when it's time?' as well. When you have made the decision for euthanasia we can offer you an appointment.

**Options:**

- 1) At the surgery- usually we will offer the last appointment of the day as this is our quieter time and enables you to have plenty of time with your pet. We can also accommodate appointments at the end of the morning consults sometimes as well. We will always do our best to meet you and your animal's needs.

Brelades has surgeries in Dorking, Gomshall and Bookham. Pre-booked appointments for euthanasia can usually be booked at your choice of surgery, however same day appointments can only be offered by which branch has availability on that day.

You can choose to be with your pet inside the surgery in one of our consultation rooms or outside the surgery. All 3 surgeries have a car park and if you prefer for your pet to stay in the vehicle we can conduct the appointment outside. This option is only really suitable for dogs.

- 2) Home visits- if necessary and if we have a vet and a nurse available, we can accommodate local home visits Monday to Friday (within a 3-4 mile radius). With regret we do not have the staff capacity to offer a weekend service for home visits.

**What to expect on the day**

We will discuss on the day the process and help decide what is best for you and your pet. We will usually place an intravenous cannula into one of your pet's front legs. This allows us to administer the injection. Most animals tolerate this procedure very well as there is minimal pain. However, in elderly or sick animals, their veins can be fragile making catheter placement more difficult. It may take a few attempts, but we will try our best to keep everything as calm and stress free as possible. We prefer the nurse to hold your pet while placing this cannula as their experience will allow the procedure to be as quick and simple as possible. We will often take them to our prep room so one of our nurses can assist, as it reduces the stress for yourselves and your pet in an already difficult time.

Sometimes they can be stressed coming to the vets or a bit wiggly so the vet may offer sedation first. This is a quick injection into the muscle on their back or neck and usually can take 10-20 minutes to take effect. We often leave you alone with them while they are falling asleep to keep it as peaceful as possible. Once the sedation has worked we can then place the intravenous cannula.

Sometimes in cats, the vet may decide to do the injection into their kidneys. This is minimally painful and well tolerated in cats and can be used instead of placing an intravenous cannula.

We will then arrange yourselves and your pet into a position you are comfortable with. Some people like to sit on the ground and will bring their dog's bed, blanket or special toys. Other people like to stroke them on the table or cuddle them. We also respect the owner's wishes to include another family pet at the final farewell. If this is something you would like to do, please let us know at the time of booking the appointment

Once you are ready we will administer the final injection. It is an anaesthetic drug so it will make them fall gently to sleep. This can be quite quick. We then give them a little bit more to stop their heart allowing your pet to pass away peacefully. The vet will then check the heart has stopped. Not everyone feels able to stay for this part, and we respect this decision. In this case one of our nurses or receptionists will stay and comfort your pet.

After this if you would like more time alone to be with your pet to say your final farewells, just let us know.

### **Small furries, exotic pets and birds**

Handling and restraint of our small furry pets (for example rabbits/ guinea pigs/ hamsters etc), exotic pets (including tortoises, bearded dragons, geckos etc) and birds can be very stressful for them. We have different ways of making the process as peaceful as possible for them. Please telephone the surgery and one of our vets will be able to give you information and answer your questions.

### **Decisions you need to make about what happens next**

- **Burial at home-** if you wish to take your pet with you after the procedure, we recommend bringing towels, pads etc to protect your vehicle on the journey home, as it is quite normal for them to open their bowels or pass bodily fluids shortly after the pass.
- **Mass cremation-** we will arrange for your pet to be transported to the crematorium in Cobham, Surrey. Your pet will be cremated alongside other pets and the ashes interred in their peaceful woodland.
- **Individual cremation-** we will arrange for your pet to be transported to the crematorium in Cobham, Surrey. Your pet will be given an individual cremation and the ashes will be returned to Brelades. We will contact your family to notify you when your pet's ashes are ready for collection. You can choose either a scatter tube or a wooden casket with a name plate for the return of ashes, a certificate confirming individual cremation is also supplied. Other casket and urn choices are available, if you would like to know more about these please talk to us or visit the website link below:

<https://www.silvermerehaven.co.uk/caskets-urns.html>

- Brelades offer a free keepsake service of your pet's paw prints on card in ink and/or fur keepsakes in small glass bottles. Please let us know if you would like these and how many.

The crematorium we use is Silvermere haven. Please see the link above for more information.

**Our reception team has the pricing information for the options above and we are here to help you.  
If you require any further information please talk to us.**

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