



BY

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FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.



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a pet parent's guide to  
PLANNING AHEAD  
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## SERVICES MAY INCLUDE:

- Special readings
- Rituals that you and your pet did to say, "I love you"
- A candle lighting tribute
- Reading of special poems and remembrances
- Sharing videos of the pet and your family
- The planting of a tree, flower, or bush

- Scripture readings
- A donation drive for a local shelter in memory of your pet
- Playing audio tapes of your pet's meow, bark, or chirp
- Reading of a eulogy to remember your pet's life with your family

My family and I will want a Remembrance Service to honor our pet:

☐ Yes ☐ No

## USE THIS AREA TO HELP PLAN AND DESIGN A REMEMBRANCE/FUNERAL SERVICE

Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date/Gotcha Date – Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Where Born/Where Gotcha'd \_\_\_\_\_

Nicknames \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings – Pet and Human \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Toy(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Least Favorite Thing \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Activity(ies) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Friends \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Place to Sleep \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite Food \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Memories \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Once you have pre-planned your pet's final arrangements and have completed this guide, you will have everything you need to complete our online Pre-Planning Form which you can transmit to us for safe keeping. In that way, when the day comes when you actually need our services and assistance for your pet's final arrangements, we can simply access your file to review what you have carefully and thoughtfully decided and move forward with your wishes. Still, if what we are offering is not the right decision for you, then simply put this guide in a safe place as it will be an invaluable reference tool for you and your family at some point in your pet's future.



## PLANNING ahead

Our Guide to Planning Ahead is intended to help you think about your pet's final arrangements and to make the most appropriate decisions regarding your pet and your family's wishes. Doing so will help ensure that your pet receives the same loving care and attention in death that you provided for in life.

Preparing yourself in advance for the death of your pet, while emotionally taxing, is a wise and thoughtful thing to do. Certainly none of us wish to think of that day. However, careful and conscientious planning ahead of time will give you and your family the opportunity to discuss how you will care for your pet's physical remains, memorialize your beloved pet, and celebrate the life that you all shared together.

Through advanced planning and careful consideration of all available options, you and your family will be confident with the decisions that you make when that difficult day arrives. Knowing exactly what to do will not only ensure that your pet receives the highest level of respect and care in a very timely fashion, but will also help eliminate the stress and uncertainty that can accompany a loss. This peace of mind is the ultimate support you will need and appreciate as a grieving pet parent.

## FINAL arrangements

What are your final arrangement wishes for your pet's body?

☐ Cremation ☐ Burial

### CREMATION

Will you want the ashes returned? ☐ Yes ☐ No

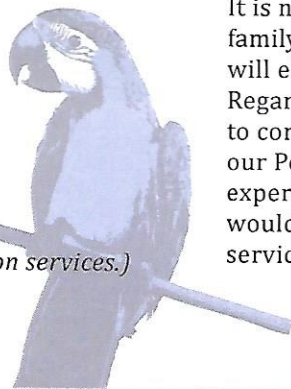
If your answer is yes, do you want:

A truly private cremation (*your pet is the only pet in the cremation unit*). ☐ Yes ☐ No **or**

A semi private cremation (*several pets will be cremated at the same time with each pet having its own private segregated section in the cremation unit - this is what most pet cremation providers call a private cremation*). ☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer is no, then you need to ask your Pet Care Specialist for a "group" or "communal" cremation. Your pet will be cremated with other pets without any means of separation, and their comingled ashes will be scattered in a designated area. ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Please see our website for pricing of our cremation services.)



## BURIAL

Where? ☐ Home ☐ Local Pet Cemetery

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

(When considering a burial, research whether your town, county, or development will allow pet burials. Also, think about how important it is to stay in the area in which you live and to have access to your pet's burial site.)

Will you want a casket to protect your pet's body? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please see available options online at [PETPASSAGES.COM](http://PETPASSAGES.COM).

## FINAL good-bye

Many families want to have that one last time to visit their pet after death, a visitation or wake if you will. While this may seem like a trivial thing – or possibly something that you consider morbid and odd, this one last time with your pet is valuable time spent. When the family pet dies, it is often the child's first exposure to death and can cause him or her to feel confused and upset. This gathering of family during this visitation helps the child to understand death, supports them in their grieving process and is used as a valuable tool for parents in explaining death as a natural event in life.

Many times family members, friends and other pets in the household will want to have their final goodbye with your pet too. Pets touch so many people during their short lives with us. Allow those around you the opportunity to come together, pay their respects, and support each other. (Please know that our staff has been trained in the proper procedures and care techniques to ensure that your pet is groomed and presentable for the Final Good-Bye).

My family and I will want a Final Good-Bye Time with our pet:

☐ Yes ☐ No (Please be sure to mark your decision on our Secure Passages cremation authorization form at time of request for services.)

## THE remembrance/funeral service

It is not uncommon for families to incorporate their traditional family or religious rituals into the Final Good-Bye. Some families will elect to choose a separate date and location for such an event. Regardless of your decision, we have provided some suggested ideas to consider when planning a pet funeral service. Please know that our Pet Funeral Directors are specially trained and have much experience in creating Remembrance/Funeral Services, and they would be honored to assist you in planning a meaningful memorial service for your beloved pet.



## MEMORIALIZATION OPTIONS

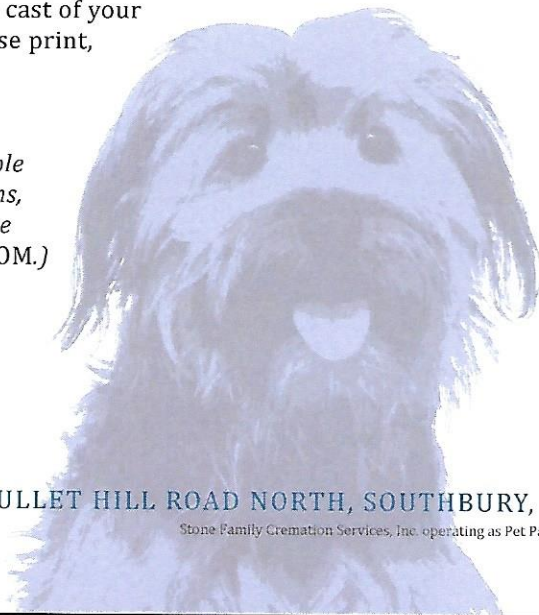
Choosing appropriate memorial products is a very personal decision based on your lifestyle, your personal tastes, and the items that reflect your pet's personality. It's also important to take into consideration where these pieces will be placed in your home or yard, and whether you want the items to blend in with existing décor or landscaping or make them stand out.

The personalization of your memorial pieces will truly make them as unique as your relationship with your pet. From a personal inscription on an urn or jewelry piece to a verse on a rock or marker, your sentimental words will create a true reflection of the love that you shared with your special pet. Pet ceremonies and memorial pieces are unique to every individual. Friends and other family members may or may not understand the need for such remembrances. However, these memorial items help ease the grieving process and serve as lasting tributes which honor their pet companions.

### *Consider the various memorial products from Pet Passages®:*

- An urn that is reflective of your decorating style
- An urn with paw prints to show your love of animals
- Locket jewelry to hold a bit of the pet's ashes or fur
- Jewelry that displays the pet's own paw or nose print
- Rocks/Garden flagstones
- An eco-friendly urn for burial in a special location
- A piece of art created to depict the pet's personality
- A frame to hold a cast of your pet's paw print, nose print, and locket of hair

*(For a complete listing of all available products and options, please visit us online at [PETPASSAGES.COM](http://PETPASSAGES.COM).)*



## YOUR PET'S STORY

Grieving pet families can now take advantage of an online memorial pet tribute. Similar in concept to the online tribute websites available for human family members, our full-featured online pet memorials, Pet Tales™, will give you and your friends and family members unique ways to pay tribute to your pet including:

- The Lighting of Memorial Candles
- A Gallery of Treasured Photographic Memories
- Personal Messages of Condolence

If a Pet Tales™ online tribute dedicated to the memory of your pet seems like a wonderful way to pay tribute to your loyal devotion, then please visit Pet Tales™ on our website.



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