



**A Time to Learn More About Animal Hospice
National Animal Hospice Day
Saturday, November 3rd**

In recent years, the field of animal hospice has grown, as an increasing number of people seek to provide a peaceful end-of-life experience for their companions. However, too often, pet parents are still forced to make difficult decisions about their pets' final days without adequate information or preparation.

National Animal Hospice Day is a time to learn more about hospice and palliative care options for your four-legged family members so you have a better understanding about the resources that are available when they reach the end of their lives.

The animal hospice and palliative care process is unique in that it provides support for both pets and their caretakers. Families work with a hospice team that helps to ensure that all options are explored for the comfort and care of pets who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness, debilitating condition, or are nearing the end of their lives. The hospice team helps to guide decision making about pain management, mobility and nutritional needs, and offers counseling to family members as they process their grief and spiritually prepare for the loss of their beloved companion.

The first place to go for additional information about hospice and palliative care for your companion animals is the Pet Parent FAQ page on the website of the International Association for Animal Hospice and Palliative Care (IAAHPC) -- <https://www.iaahpc.org/for-the-professional/faq.html>. Then, reach out to your veterinarian to see what hospice and palliative care services they provide. As a pet parent, you are your pet's best advocate and one of the most important members of the hospice and palliative care team, so if your veterinarian is aware of your desire to create a peaceful and gentle end-of-life experience for your animals, they should be able to provide or refer you to the best resources.

Sara May is a Nationally Certified Canine Massage Therapist and Acupressure Practitioner who co-founded **Canis Bodyworks LLC**, an educational company devoted to bringing canine massage and bodywork instruction to anyone and everyone who wishes to improve the lives of the dogs in their care. Find out more about our 1, 2, and 3 day workshop offerings (including a *Canine Palliative and Hospice Care* workshop) at www.CanisBodyworks.com, or contact Sara at info@CanisBodyworks.com.

For information about private, in-home canine massage for your dog, contact Heather Gustin, Certified Canine Massage Therapist and GFA volunteer – HeathersCanineMassage@gmail.com.