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End of Life decisions for your Pet: How do you know it is time?

At some point, we have all experienced the passing of a pet, be it ours or the pet of a friend or a family member.

To see your dog or cat getting old is a part of life, but it remains a difficult time for all members of a family that go through it. Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that “You are not alone” and that all Veterinarians can help you make this decision and also make sure that your pet passes with dignity and with its family around him/her.

Consider not only what is best for your pet, but also what is best for you and your family. For example if your pet has an injury that it will not heal from and the quality of life (eating, going for walks, etc) has been diminished, then perhaps euthanasia is the right decision for all of you. If your pet is elderly, and has had a full life, and again the quality of life has diminished, then you can make that decision as well.

We find that a lot of people may not have the financial means to take their elderly pet to the veterinarian for a “humane euthanasia” (putting your pet to sleep) However there are vets that charge Low Cost fees for this service.

A good number of people feel that their only choice, when a pet gets too old, is to take that pet to the local Animal Shelter and surrender it as the Animal Shelter charges a smaller fee for taking in your pet (usually \$35). What you may not know, is that your pet, will not have an easy time at the shelter. An Animal shelter is loud, smelly and pets normally do not get to go outside more than once a day. Your beloved pet will feel “lost”, “cold”, “sad” and definitely “confused” that he/she is no longer in the home that he/she knew with its family.

Animal shelters can also perform euthanasia. But, you will not be present. And your dog will be with strangers, in a cold, loud room when it is performed. The fee is higher, approx \$125.

Low cost vets offer euthanasia services for about \$75, and you and your family have the chance to say Good Bye to your pet. It will be a quick and stress less passing for your pet, with you by his/her side.

Isn't that what we all would like? A good, loving passing for the dog or cat that was our companion for so many years? Yes, it is a little more money, but you will have the certainty that your pet will not suffer and that he/she will know you were there until his/her last moments.

If you find that It is perhaps time for your pet to pass on, please contact us. We can help you find the resources you need.