

Humane Euthanasia Procedure

After the Decision is Made...

Should You Be Present for the Procedure?

This is a deeply personal decision, and there is no right or wrong answer. You may be booking a euthanasia date in the future, or you may need immediate assistance. We are available by a phone call or email for any and all questions you may have during this difficult time. Your plan may change, and that is ok. There are no wrong questions or requests. Some owners choose not to be present for emotional reasons, while others feel comforted by having a family member nearby during this time. It is important to decide ahead of time which family members would like to be there - even virtually - and address any concerns you may have.

Before the procedure can take place, a Humane Euthanasia Consent form must be signed. Our reception team will also discuss aftercare options with you at this time. Payment for the procedure is required prior to its commencement. We can dispense a mild sedative medication for you to give at home if that would help your pet.

Home euthanasias are available when we have the staff. Booking in advance ensures that we can serve this need for your pet. Payment and arrangements are performed ahead of the home visit.

How is the Procedure Performed?

A Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT) will administer an injectable sedative and pain medicine, which typically takes up to 5 minutes to take effect, causing your pet to fall into a peaceful sleep. The intramuscular injection may sting only slightly. Vomiting occasionally can happen after this injection. Afterward, an intravenous catheter will be placed by the RVT and their assistant. Please note that in older or ill pets, veins may be more difficult to access. If this occurs, the euthanasia solution can be administered in other equally painless locations.

Once the IV catheter is in place, you may choose to spend some last moments with your pet privately, if desired. When you are ready, the veterinarian will administer the euthanasia solution, which is a blue-colored overdose of a barbituate anesthesia given through the IV catheter. This will cause your pet to pass peacefully in less than a minute; sometimes in mere seconds. The painless anesthetic will stop consciousness and then the heart from beating. While every effort is made to make the experience as gentle as possible, it is important to note that the pet will not close its eyes. There may be muscle twitching, body

stretching, vocalizing, or very large unconscious breaths before the pet passes away. Some animals may also release urine or other bodily fluids as they relax. These are all normal and do not last long.

You will be given as much or little time as you want for your final goodbyes before you are ready to leave.

Keepsakes

Please let our team know if you would like a lock of your pet's hair or an ink paw print as a memento. We also offer "marshmallow" prints - these are white clay with your pet's pawprint. You can also leave favored items to be sent with your pet- for example, a stuffed animal, drawing or note to go with them.

Aftercare Options

Private Cremation:

Your pet will be cremated individually at Red Deer Pet Cremation Services, and you will receive their ashes. We will handle all arrangements, including transportation to and from the facility. Ashes will be available for pick-up at our clinic within 7 to 10 business days, although this may take longer if engraving or special urns are requested.

For more information on urns and keepsakes, please visit: [Red Deer Pet Cremation Services](#). (Private Cremation is added to the euthanasia and includes the urn)

Communal Cremation: (added to the euthanasia procedure)

Your pet will be cremated alongside other beloved pets, and their ashes will be scattered together at the acreage at the crematory.

At-Home Burial:

If you prefer, you may take your pet home for burial. Please note that in Sylvan Lake, burying pets within town limits is not allowed. This option is only available for those living on acreage or a farm. The burial must be at least 4 feet deep to prevent predation and ensure the safety of the surrounding environment, particularly concerning the anesthetic.

Please give us a call if you require pricing or have any further questions.