

Pet Bereavement Support

Everybody grieves in their own way. Understanding the different feelings and thoughts that you will experience can help make your grieving process easier. If you're struggling to cope or just need to talk to someone, we have staff who are trained in pet bereavement support. Visit our website for details of counsellors or call one of the support lines below.



Blue Cross Pet Bereavement Support Service
0800 096 6606



Cats Protection Paws to Listen Grief Support Service
0800 024 94 94



If you have a friend or family member that is having to deal with the loss of their pet, we offer an information pack helping them cope and giving them choices of what to do when the final day comes. Sadly, unless a vet recommends Dignity or someone contacts us direct to arrange for their pet to come to us, pets are collected, handled, transported and cremated in a completely different way to the respectful way we care for them.

The Dignity Promise is a guarantee that we will treat each pet with the utmost care and respect. To only cremate them individually, and ensure the ashes you receive are only those of your pet.

Just like arranging your own funeral service, it is always good to plan your pet's final arrangements. The plan does not need to be complicated; we can help with a **Letter of Wishes** and **Pre-Payment Plan**.

- **Letter of Wishes** It is wise to create a letter covering your wishes after your pet's death. You should do this in advance of the final day and give it to your vet, kennels or cattery should you be away on holiday and your pet is in someone else's care to make sure you get what you want.
- **Pre-Payment Plan** Having the funds available to cover the cost of your pet's cremation gives you peace of mind. At Dignity we offer a monthly pre-payment plan to help reduce the impact when the time comes.



Customer Feedback

At Dignity we strive to give you a caring, respectful and personalised service. It would mean a lot to us if you could take the time to leave some feedback via the links on our website to independent review sites. Alternatively, give our Facebook page a Like and leave a review, photo & tribute to your pet on there.



PET CREMATORIUM



Paws for Thought

Thank you for choosing Dignity to look after your pet. In this guide we give you helpful advice on scattering or burying your pet's ashes with further information on ways to remember your pet.

Scattering Your Pet's Ashes

Scattering the ashes of your pet is a highly personal experience. Here are some ideas to consider:

- **Scatter your pet's ashes in a public place such as a favourite walk.**
- **Choose a special spot in the garden and mark it with a plant or Memorial Pebble.**
- **Have your pet's ashes scattered in the Garden of Remembrance at Dignity.**
- **Reserve a spot for yourself and your pet to be scattered together at Dignity.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Plants can be damaged by ashes as they have a very high pH level. To avoid this, mix them with soil or peat to create a better growing environment.

Kevin

Having Your Ashes at Dignity

Reserving a plot within our gardens is simple, please call us to make an appointment to visit and choose an area. There are a variety of options available including formal flower beds and natural areas.

Helpful Advice on Scattering your Pet's Ashes

- **Avoid scattering on a windy day and keep the wind to your back, with everyone else standing upwind.**
- **If scattering in a popular location, choose a quieter time to do so for privacy.**
- **If raking into a flower bed, keep the container close to the ground.**
- **If scattering on a beach, make a trench near the water's edge and fill with the cremated remains. As the tide comes in the waves will gently take them out to sea.**
- **Avoid scattering on land where animals are grazing.**

See the Dignity brochure for further scatter options.



Burying Your Pet's Ashes

Many people choose to bury their pet's ashes in their garden as a way of keeping them close. Choose a sunny spot, away from the house, in a position where you can look out of your window and remember them with love.

Even if you've initially decided to keep your pet's ashes at home you are welcome to have them interred in our Gardens of Remembrance at any time in the future. You can even have your own ashes scattered alongside them.

Once you have chosen the spot dig a hole that is deep enough to house the casket or urn with at least 6 inches of soil between the top on the urn and ground level. Alternatively, take your pet's ashes out of the container and bury them directly in the ground. This is the fastest way to naturally return their ashes to earth. However, if you intend moving home in the future, we would recommend you inter your pet's ashes into a Polished Metal Urn wrapped in plastic to prevent them from biodegrading.

If you do not wish to inter their ashes directly into the ground, an alternative is to place them into a large garden tub that can be moved at a later date. You may want to plant a Blooming Remembrance Heart in the tub where wild flowers will grow, giving remembrance to your loved one.



DID YOU KNOW?

Most human cemeteries and crematoriums are not approved for scattering or burial of pet ashes. Contact us about having your own ashes buried alongside your pet at Dignity.

Kevin

Remembering Your Pet

Finding a personal way to say goodbye and honour your pet is important for your emotional health and well-being, especially for children. When the time feels right, think of the ways you can preserve their memory. Planning a memorial service, drawing a picture of your pet or setting up a special memory spot may give you or a child an outlet for expressing your grief.

Here are a few suggestions

- **Plant a tree, shrub or flower in their memory.**
- **Place a Charity wall plaque in Dignity's Remembrance Walkway.**
- **Create a photo-book or fill a Memory Box with keepsakes and special photos of your pet.**



- **Turn their paw print into a beautiful piece of jewellery, or a candle or cushion.**

- **Create a soft toy from their bedding.**
- **Give something back by donating to a charity in their memory.**
- **Leave a tribute to your pet on our Facebook page.**
- **Create an entry to them in our Book of Remembrance.**



- **Place a personalised marker or stone in your garden to create a special memorialised area.**

For further details and a full range of products, please see the Dignity brochure or our website.