



**Parkhill
Vets**

Supporting Children Through the Loss of a Pet

- Give your child the opportunity to say goodbye to their pet. This may be before, during, or after euthanasia.
- Talk to your child about what will happen during the euthanasia and why you have made this decision.
- Use clear language and simple terms like "died". Avoid ambiguous language like "put to sleep", or false explanations such as saying the pet has "gone missing".
- Depending on your child's age, you may wish to include them in discussions about options for your pet after euthanasia (burial or cremation).
- Encourage your child to talk about their pet after they have died. It might help for them to write about or draw their pet.
- Encourage your child to share their feelings, and let them know that it is okay to feel upset.
- Inform your child's teachers if they are very upset.
- If you are bringing your child to the euthanasia appointment, please inform the veterinary team beforehand.



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Saying Goodbye to your Pet



Goodbye, _____ (write your pet's name here)

Happy memories I have of you:

Things I will miss about you:

Things I can do to help me feel better when I feel sad:

Draw a picture of your pet: