



“Losing A Pet”

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With many of our pets, we share a unique bond. It's very hard to imagine our lives without our pets. However, sooner or later, everyone who cares for a pet must face the fact that it will be affected by illness, old age or even accidental death. It is sad, but animals do not live as long as people do. If you have a companion pet of your own, there will be a time when you may need to make a very hard decision as to whether or not to let your pet go. If your animal is very sick and/or suffering, consult with your veterinarian who can give you different options as to caring for, or helping provide your pet in a dignified manner, a very peaceful death.

Many times due to financial circumstances, you may be torn about what medical procedures should be done for an animal who has given us loyalty and unconditional love. Yes, it's just about one of the toughest decisions you may ever need to make, but it is important to be well informed and aware of all humane options in order to make the best possible choice on behalf of your pet.

If you have a friend who has lost a pet, give them a chance to grieve for the loss of their animal. It is important to have compassion and support during their time of grief. Powerful emotions can come from the loss of a pet, whether it has passed due to illness, age or an unfortunate accident. Individuals can feel confused, frightened, angry, guilty or just plain "sad". These emotions are quite normal.

If you are a pet parent and find that you need help in coping with a loss of a pet, first...contact your local veterinarian. Reading materials include: "Coping with the Loss of a Pet: A Gentle Guide for All Who Love a Pet", Christina M. Lemieux, Ph.D.; Wallace R. Clark & Co.; 1988 or "Pet Loss: A Thoughtful Guide for Adults and Children", Herbert A. Nieburg, Ph.D. & Arlene Fischer; Harper Perennial; 1996. There are also Pet Loss Support programs offered through the ASPCA that pertain to the following issues:

- Assistance in making a humane decision in regards to your beloved pet**
- Comfort and Support during the decision period**
- Help with grieving the loss of your pet**

- Advice on dealing with children, the elderly or disabled individuals who are facing the death of their companion animal
- Planning for the process after death
- Helping any surviving animals in the household to cope
- Establishing a relationship with a new pet

If you would like this information, you can get assistance by dialing (212) 876-7700, ext. 4355. You can also call a Pet Loss Hotline at (800) 946-4646, enter this pin number (140-7211), then add your own phone number.

If you have special pets, enjoy your pets each and every day. They can provide you with many years of happiness and companionship, and be your "best friend" to the end.

Featured Pets at Beltrami Humane Society this week are "Brock & Kayla", two littermate kittens born 9/18/06. They are medium to long haired, very loveable, playful and approximately 5 months old at this time. They have had their basic kennel vaccinations, been de-wormed & de-fleaed. With their adoption, you will receive a free rabies vaccination certificate to be honored at your local Animal Care Clinic. They can be seen at 1612 Carr Lake Rd SE, Bemidji, MN. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, 12:30 p.m. If you would like more information, call (218) 751-7910.

A Special "Thanks" to all the students at "Central Elementary School", "Horace May Elementary School" and "Solway Elementary School" whom during "Kindness Week" not only collected both monetary and pet food donations for the cats and dogs at Beltrami Humane Society, but whom also introduced themselves to "Jack" the English Labrador Retriever. He enjoyed every second of the petting and attention given. He invites you to come and visit his shelter friends anytime, and perhaps you will take one of them home to be a part of your family. To the United Methodist Youth Group whom came to help clean and groom animals, "thank you". We appreciate each and every person and/or group that comes to our facility to adopt, visit or help with our animals. Our "Hats are Off To You" for your generous contributions! Thank you very much from the animals and staff at Beltrami Humane Society.

