

## *How to Plan a Pet Memorial Service*

Anyone who has lived with a pet has likely come to feel that it's a part of the family. We love our pets unconditionally, and when they die, we grieve almost as much as—sometimes more than—when a human family member dies. Because our pets mean so much to us, it is only natural that we want to plan a respectful, loving ceremony when our cherished furry friends die.

### **Choose the Best Location For The Service**

There are many options available to hold a beautiful memorial service. An outdoor service beside the grave or niche is extremely popular and allows many freedoms to create a service attended by any number of guests including other pets. Memorial services may also be held inside one of the funeral home chapels. All the same options available for a human's memorial service are actually available to you with your beloved pet.

### **Plan A Touching Ceremony**

The memorial service is a time for you to remember the good times and happy memories with your pet. Prepare a photo slide show of you and your pet, complete with "baby" pictures. Read a prayer that is representative of the love you and your pet shared and your hopes for her to rest in peace. Write an anecdote about a humorous or happy memory and read that during the service. You could also simply talk about what your pet meant to you and thank her for the joy she brought into your life. Have other family members and friends talk about their favorite memories of the pet.

### **Be Creative when Remembering Them**

Before you lay the animal to rest, you could press its paw into ink and place the paw-print on a memorial card or even on the grave marker or stone you chose to mark his burial spot. You could have the animal's photo imprinted on a grave marker or stone, which will allow you to clearly picture him when you visit his grave. Print his picture on a memorial card and keep it on your dresser or in your wallet. This allows you to carry him with you always.