

## *Creative Ways to Memorialize Your Pet*

The grieving process is different for everyone. But one thing that is true for everyone is that honoring or memorializing your pet can help you with the grieving process. Curlew Hills offers many options for memorialization in its pet cemetery. Below are some suggestions for personal ways you can celebrate your pet's memory.

***Purchase or design a custom urn.*** Most cremated ashes are returned in respectful yet standard coffee-can type urns. Plenty of options from elegant hand-blown glass to ceramic to wood are available. Prices range from reasonable to extravagant. Something more than traditional is a touching way to store your four-legged friend's ashes.

***Plant a tree in your own yard or in a community garden.*** Tree planting is a touching tribute and a way your pet can continue to grow as a living legacy. Add a personal touch by planting a tree that represents your pet's spirit, such as an oak, willow, or apple tree.

***Donate in your pet's name.*** Charitable giving is a way of giving back to other animals in need. Consider donating to canine cancer research, your local animal shelter, or a rescue organization. The dollar amount isn't important. A few dollars will help feed a local dog or cat in need. In lieu of money, consider donating your time at a local shelter—in memory of your pet. A wonderful reminder that the love you shared lives on through service to others.

***Create a tribute website.*** This is a great place for you to share stories and photographs of your pet. There are many free website templates available that make it easy to share your pet's memory with friends and family.

***Commission a portrait.*** Hire a professional painter who can work off one or more favorite photographs. Or, if you're talented, you can add a touch of the personal by painting it yourself. One painter incorporates a touch of cremated ash into the paint.