



Rainbow Meadow

Free grief support for pet families



rainbow-meadow.org/grief-support

Scan to begin

ON THIS SITE, FAMILIES CAN

- Create a private memorial
- Track quality of life over time
- Walk through a guided farewell
- Set remembrance reminders



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FOR PET FAMILIES

TODAY

What to do right now

A practical checklist for the first 48 hours.

- Decide on body care.** Ask your vet about private cremation, communal cremation, aquamation, or home burial. No rush, but most clinics need an answer within 24 hrs.
- Keep their collar, a tuft of fur, or a paw print.** Your vet can help with ink or clay prints before aftercare.
- Tell one person.** You don't have to explain. Just let someone know.

THIS WEEK

- Cancel or pause auto-ship orders** for food, medication, or flea/tick prevention.
- Notify pet insurance** to stop billing.
- Update microchip records** if applicable.

WHEN YOU'RE READY (NO TIMELINE)

- Pick up ashes or memorial items
- Decide what to do with their belongings
- Write down one memory before details fade



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AFTERCARE

Aftercare options at a glance

Your vet can walk you through these.

OPTION	WHAT HAPPENS	COST
Private cremation	Your pet only. Ashes returned.	\$150- \$350
Communal	With other pets. No ashes returned.	\$50- \$150
Aquamation	Water-based. Gentler on environment.	\$200- \$400
Home burial	Check local regulations first.	Varies

CENTRAL MA AFTERCARE PROVIDERS

- Forget-Me-Not Pet Crematory** · Worcester
- Forever Friends** · Charlton
- Petrichor Aquamation** · Greater Worcester
- Final Gift Pet Memorial Park** · Central MA

GRIEF SUPPORT HOTLINES

- ASPCA Pet Loss** · (877) 474-3310
- Tufts Pet Loss** · (508) 839-7966
- Cornell Pet Loss** · (607) 253-3932

Scan this. We'll meet you there.



rainbow-meadow.org/grief-support

You don't have to figure out what to do next. Open this on your phone and we'll start with what matters most.

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The first 72 hours

What to do today, what can wait, and what comes next.

RIGHT NOW (TODAY)

- Decide on body care.** Private cremation, communal cremation, aquamation, or home burial. Most clinics need an answer within 24 hours, but you can decide tomorrow if you need to.
- Keep something physical.** A collar, a tuft of fur, a clay paw print. Ask your vet — most can do this for you.
- Tell one person.** Not to explain. Just to let someone know.
- Eat and drink something.** You don't need to be productive today. You do need to keep yourself going.

THIS WEEK

- Cancel or pause auto-ship orders (food, meds, flea/tick prevention)
- Notify pet insurance to stop billing
- Update or deactivate microchip registration
- Pick up ashes or memorial items if you've ordered them
- Decide what to do with food, medication, and uneaten treats — donate to a shelter if you can

WHEN YOU'RE READY (NO TIMELINE)

- Decide what to do with their belongings — keep, donate, or pass on
- Set a remembrance date (their birthday, adoption day, or the day they left)
- Walk through a guided farewell — at home, on your own time

ONE MEMORY PROMPT

"Write down one specific moment, not a summary. The smell of their fur after a bath. The sound they made when you came home. Something only you would notice."

TONIGHT, BEFORE SLEEP

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ASPCA Pet Loss · (877) 474-3310

Tufts Pet Loss · (508) 839-7966

Cornell Pet Loss · (607) 253-3932



A private quality-of-life tracker

For the days when it's hard to tell if today was better or worse than yesterday.

WHAT IT DOES

A short daily check-in that takes about 30 seconds. Over time, you'll see patterns you couldn't hold in your head — good days, harder days, and the slow direction of things.

- **Five quick scores** — appetite, mobility, comfort, interest, and breathing
- **One free-text note** for the day's moment that mattered
- **A trend view** that shows direction, not just numbers
- **A vet-share summary** you can bring to your next appointment

SAMPLE TREND



10-day comfort score

WHEN TO START

- At a chronic diagnosis.** Cancer, kidney disease, heart conditions, mobility decline.
- When you start asking the question.** "Is it time?" — the tracker helps you answer with data, not just feeling.
- When you want to stop second-guessing.** Patterns are clearer than memory, especially under stress.

WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR VET

- The 14-day or 30-day trend summary (printable from the app)
- Notes from any concerning days
- Specific questions about treatment, comfort, or quality of life

PRIVACY

Your check-ins are private to you. Nothing is shared unless you choose to share it. No accounts, no email collection, no ads.



When the whole household is grieving

Children, partners, and other animals all feel the loss differently.

TALKING TO CHILDREN

- **Use plain language.** "Died" is clearer than "passed away" or "went to sleep." Soft words can frighten more than they soothe.
- **Tell them it wasn't their fault.** Say it out loud, even if they haven't asked.
- **Let them see you sad.** Modeling grief helps them feel safe to feel it.
- **Include them in something.** A drawing, a buried object, a candle. Ritual helps children process.
- **Expect questions to circle back.** They will ask the same things days and weeks later. That's how children grieve.

OTHER PETS IN THE HOME

- **They notice.** Animals respond to the absence — they may search rooms, vocalize, sleep more, or eat less.
- **Keep routines steady.** Walks, mealtimes, and bedtime should stay the same.
- **Let them say goodbye if you can.** Some vets allow surviving pets to be present, or to see the body afterward. This often reduces searching behavior.
- **Don't rush to "replace."** Wait until the household feels stable. A new animal is a new relationship, not a substitute.
- **Watch for two weeks.** Most behavior changes resolve. If they don't, call your vet.

WHAT TO SAY TO FAMILY

- **You don't owe an explanation.** "Our pet died and we're not okay" is a complete sentence.
- **Decline what doesn't help.** Visits, food, advice — say no without guilt.
- **Ask for the small thing.** A walk, a meal dropped off, someone to take the trash out for a week.
- **Name the loss.** Family members who didn't live with the animal may not know how big this is. Telling them helps.
- **It's okay if grief is uneven.** One person may cry for weeks. Another may not cry at all. Both are real.

WHAT HELPS EVERYONE — TOGETHER

Mark the day. Light a candle. Tell one specific story. Let the small things be the ceremony — a walk in a place they loved, a meal that was theirs to share. Ritual is how a household closes a chapter together.



Understanding your aftercare options

Decide when you're ready.

COMPARE YOUR OPTIONS

OPTION	WHAT HAPPENS	ASHES BACK?	COST	TIMELINE	ASK THE PROVIDER
Private cremation	Your pet only, in a separate chamber.	Yes	\$150-\$350	1-2 wks	Is my pet cremated individually or partitioned?
Communal cremation	Multiple pets together. Ashes scattered or buried by provider.	No	\$50-\$150	N/A	Where are communal ashes scattered?
Witnessed cremation	You are present. Private chamber.	Yes	\$250-\$500	Same day	Can I stay for the full process?
Aquamation	Water-based process (alkaline hydrolysis). Gentler on environment.	Yes	\$200-\$400	1-3 wks	Is aquamation individual or batched?
Home burial	Buried on your property. Check local regulations.	N/A	Varies	Immediate	What depth and distance from water sources?
Natural burial	Biodegradable shroud or casket.	N/A	\$300-\$800	1-3 days	Do you offer biodegradable options?

QUESTIONS TO ASK ANY AFTERCARE PROVIDER

1. What is your chain of custody? Will my pet be transported elsewhere?
2. For private cremation — is it truly individual, or partitioned within a shared chamber?
3. What urn or container options do you offer? Can I bring my own?
4. What is your timeline for returning ashes? Do you deliver?
5. Do you offer paw prints, fur clippings, or nose prints before cremation?
6. Is there a viewing or goodbye room available?

MEMORIAL OPTIONS

- Decorative urns and keepsake urns
- Garden memorial stones
- Photo engraving or portrait
- Ink or clay paw prints
- Jewelry with cremation ash
- Digital memorial at rainbow-meadow.org

Write down one true detail before it fades.

Not the big things. The small ones — the smell of their fur, the exact sound they made when you came home, the way they sat in the patch of sun in the afternoon.

When you're ready, save it privately at rainbow-meadow.org.



rainbow-meadow.org/first-crossing

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Rainbow Meadow — quick-start for clinics

Free. No login. No partnership required. Just print, place, and hand off.

WHAT IT IS

A free grief-support platform for pet families — guided farewell ritual, quality-of-life tracking, private memorials, and immediate practical support. Designed to slot into the moments your team already navigates: discharge after euthanasia, anticipatory-grief conversations, and aftercare follow-up.

THE 4-STEP ROLLOUT

1. **Print the kit.** Twelve pieces, all free at rainbow-meadow.org/for-professionals. Use the "Print the entire kit" link.
2. **Place the signage.** Rack card at reception, tabletop sign in consult rooms, poster in the waiting area.
3. **Hand off the right piece.** Use the staff usage guide to map scenarios → assets. Most discharge moments need just the brochure plus the start-here card.
4. **Follow up.** Include the one-link client URL in your discharge email or text: rainbow-meadow.org/grief-support

WHAT FAMILIES GET

- An immediate next step within ten seconds of scanning
- A guided farewell ritual they can do at home, on their own time
- A private companion space — no app, no account required
- Quality-of-life tracking for pets still in care
- Aftercare comparison and local provider lists (Central MA)

WHAT IT DOES FOR YOUR TEAM

- Removes the "I don't know what else to give them" moment at discharge
- Replaces ad-hoc photocopies with a coherent kit
- Gives the front desk a one-line script to offer with confidence
- Quietly does the emotional follow-up your team can't always do

CO-BRANDING

Want a version with your clinic's logo, contact information, or an aftercare partner's branding? Email founder@rainbow-meadow.org or visit rainbow-meadow.org/contact. Free for non-commercial clinical use.



Staff usage guide — by scenario

For each moment, here's the piece to hand over and the line to say with it.

SCENARIO → ASSET → SCRIPT

SCENARIO	HAND THEM THIS	SAY THIS
Euthanasia discharge	Main brochure + Start Here card	"This is for you when you're ready. The QR code on the front opens immediate support — you don't need to download anything."
Anticipatory grief / chronic diagnosis	Preparing / QoL handout	"This is a private daily check-in for the days when it's hard to tell. Bring the printout to your next appointment."
What-to-expect conversation	What to Expect handout	"Take this home. It explains what the next few days might look like — and what is and isn't something to worry about."
Aftercare decision	Aftercare Decision Sheet	"You don't have to decide right now. This compares the options and gives you the questions to ask any provider."
Family with children or other pets	Family / Children / Pets handout	"This is for the rest of the household — what to say to children, and what to watch for in your other animals."
Phone inquiry — recent loss	Email or text the client link	"I can text you a single link with everything you need — guided support, a memorial space, and aftercare options. No login."
Aftercare follow-up (1-2 weeks later)	One True Detail card + client link	"We thought of you. This is a small writing prompt. The link goes to a private space if you'd like to keep something."
Walk-in / waiting room curiosity	Rack card or tabletop sign	(Passive — let the signage do the work. No script required.)

QUICK RULES OF THUMB

- If you only hand over one thing today: the **Start Here card**.
- If you can hand over two: **brochure + start-here card**.
- If they ask "what comes next?": **First 72 Hours handout**.
- If they have other pets at home: **Family / Children / Pets handout**.
- If they're in shock — don't explain. Just hand the start-here card and say "this opens the rest."

WHERE TO PRINT

The whole kit lives at rainbow-meadow.org/for-professionals. Use the "Print the entire kit" button to print all 12 pieces in one pass, or use the individual print pages to refill what you've run out of.



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