



## 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](http://rainbow-meadow.org)