

## ***What happens after?***

Whilst signing the consent form the vet will discuss different options with you. You can take your pet home with you for a home burial, or we can arrange a cremation for you.

We work closely with Summerleaze Pet Crematorium. There are two cremation options, a communal cremation where no ashes are returned, or a private cremation where your pets ashes are returned in either a carved casket or urn, although there are other casket and urn options – please ask reception for a brochure if you would like to look at the other options available.

If you choose a private cremation your pets ashes will be returned to us in seven to fourteen days time. We will give you a call to let you know when your pets ashes are with us. There is no rush to collect your pets ashes, we can keep them until you are ready.



## ***What about the bill?***

We do not expect you to worry about paying the bill on the day (although if you would prefer to, you are welcome) give us a call in a few days when you are ready.

## ***Bereavement Support***

For some of us, coming to terms with the loss of a pet can be extremely difficult. A member of our team is currently training to be able to offer Pet Bereavement Support, and is here to help should you need it. We can arrange a time to talk to you over the phone, or come in for a cup of tea and a chat. Just give us a call on our normal number.

Below you will find our standard practice opening times, however we do offer a 24 hour emergency service 365 days of the year. If you do need us out of the normal opening times please dial our normal number and you will be able to get through to one of our on duty vets.

### **Crediton Surgery**

Monday-Friday      8:30am - 6:30pm  
Saturdays            8:30am - 1:00pm

### **Tedburn St Mary Surgery**

Monday-Friday      4:30pm - 6:30pm  
Saturdays            closed

Tel: 01363 772860

Email: [pets@stbonifacevets.co.uk](mailto:pets@stbonifacevets.co.uk)

Website: [www.stbonifacevets.co.uk](http://www.stbonifacevets.co.uk)

St Boniface  
Vets 

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*Making the  
decision to say  
goodbye to your pet,  
and what to expect*

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Exeter Road, Crediton. Tel: 01363 772860  
[www.stbonifacevets.co.uk](http://www.stbonifacevets.co.uk)

One of the most difficult and feared times we face as a pet owner is having our much loved pet put to sleep. Knowing whether you are making the right decision and what to expect troubles many owners.

### *How do I know if the time is right?*

There are several factors you may consider when assessing your pet's quality of life:

- ◆ Appetite and thirst – are they eating and drinking enough to maintain their strength and body condition?
- ◆ Restfulness – are they able to rest or sleep comfortably and contentedly for sufficient lengths of time?
- ◆ Dignity – are they able to maintain their own personal hygiene and toileting requirements?
- ◆ Pain – are they free from persistent pain?
- ◆ Mobility – can they move themselves around without assistance from you and in such a way to maintain the points above?

Our decision to put to sleep our pet should be made with their welfare at the forefront of that decision. As pet owners we sometimes keep our pets going for our own benefit, and not being ready to say goodbye.

If you would like to discuss with one of our vets whether it is time, please give us a call at the practice. Although we cannot make that decision



for you, we will help in anyway we can to help you assess your pets quality of life.

### *What happens on the day?*

When the time comes, please give us a call at the practice to arrange an appointment. We can also arrange house visits, please speak to reception for more information and availability for this option.

On arrival at the practice, let our receptionist know you are here. You are welcome to wait in reception, in the car, or if we have a free consulting room then we can arrange this for you. You may prefer that we put to sleep your pet in the car, whilst we will endeavour to do this it may not always be practical for space or access reasons, but we can assess this on the day.

The vet will discuss any thoughts or concerns you may have. We will ask you to sign a consent form before we put your pet to sleep.

In most cases we will sedate your pet before being put to sleep. In order to do this we would normally inject the sedative in the back muscle.

Generally this will make them sleepy within five to ten minutes. Once they are sleepy the vet will inject an overdose of anaesthetic quickly and painlessly.

The injecting itself normally takes about ten to thirty seconds. Once injected, the sensation your pet will experience is like that of an anaesthetic, where you drift out of consciousness. Your pet will drift away quickly and the vet will confirm when they have passed away. Some pets may have slight muscle tremors or even take what appears to be gasps after they have passed, many will also let go of their bowels and bladder. Their eyes will stay open as the muscles relax. This is all normal but can be alarming if you are not aware it may happen.

Of course if you do not wish to be present whilst your pet is being put to sleep, this is more than okay. The vet and nurse will be there to comfort your pet. If you wanted to say goodbye afterwards we can arrange for you to wait in another room. Feel free to take as much time as you need.

Smaller pets, such as rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and reptiles are put to sleep by a different method. The kindest way is to anaesthetise before injecting. Sadly owners are not able to be present due to the anaesthetic gases.

When you are ready to leave, we do have an alternative exit to save you having to walk back through reception where there may be other clients waiting if you prefer.