

There are many online and print resources that are available. Knowing where to begin looking is often a challenge. Below are some suggestions that you may find helpful.

www.griefwords.com

www.humanesociety.org

www.petlosshelp.org/10commonquestions.html

When a Family Pet Dies:
A Guide to Dealing with Children's Loss
by J. Kingsley and J Tuzeo-Jarolmen

I Miss You: A First Look at Death
by P. Thomas and L. Harker

Goodbye Friend:
Healing Wisdom for Anyone who has ever Lost a Pet
by G. Kowalski

Caring for each other in the community

If you would like additional suggestions, would like to simply chat, or need assistance finding additional resources in the larger community, please feel free to call or email.



Morse & Son Funeral Home
5917 Main Street
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 5Z7
Phone (905) 356-3550
Facsimile (905) 356-9916
www.morseandson.com

Morgan Funeral Home
415 Regent Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J07
Phone (905) 468-3255
Facsimile (905) 356-9916
www.morganfuneral.com

For Pet Owners

Inside this brochure you will find information that may be helpful in relation to...

Death of a Pet

For most people, a pet of any kind is a family member.

Pets have the ability to give unconditional love and companionship and so it is quite natural that we grieve when they die. It is important that you allow yourself the opportunity to mourn the loss.



Grieving for a Pet

Grieving is the outward expression of your feelings. There is no right or wrong way to grieve the death of your pet.

Some people may not understand the special connection that can form between a pet and a person. Perhaps they have not had a pet, or have not had the same experience with the pets that they have welcomed into their own homes.

It may be that you have already heard comments like “It was just a dog, a cat, a bird, etc.” or “You can get another one.” We are so very sorry if this has been your experience and recognize that a number of factors will influence how people acknowledge and cope with the death of a pet.

Even within the same family, people may feel very differently towards a pet and may mourn the loss in different ways.

Children, adults and older adults may have had a very different relationship with the same animal. For example, a dog may be a playmate for a young child, a walking partner for an adult and a quiet, loving companion for a senior all in the same day. Each person will grieve the loss of that special relationship in their own way.

It’s okay to have a variety of emotions, sadness, anger, guilt, confusion. These are normal responses to any loss in your life.

Rituals can be quite helpful in the healing process. Provide time to acknowledge the loss, express emotions and share any memories among family members or a close friend.

Acknowledge that your pet was special to you for a reason, was loved and will always be loved.



Involve the Children in your Life

If there are any children who have spent time with your pet, it is important to remember them. Your child, grandchild, or perhaps, even the neighbour’s child.



This may be the first opportunity for you to help a child learn about grief, and may serve them well into the future as you allow them to express themselves freely.

It can be an opportunity to learn about both the joy and the sorrow that comes from loving something or someone beyond themselves.

Drawing a picture, placing a favourite pet toy, sharing memories, making a photo album. Any such thing can help a child to acknowledge the death of the pet and to gain a greater understanding of what it means to be compassionate towards another being.

Allow yourself time to mourn the death of your pet and be gentle with yourself. You are hurting and need time to heal.

If there are other animals in the home, they will also be sensing the loss and may experience a change in appetite or behaviour. Be sure to keep their routine as normal as possible and be affectionate towards them.