

Remembering Your Pet - Ways to Say Goodbye



When a pet dies, it's a good idea to say goodbye. Saying goodbye brings closure, which means it helps you to start to feel better. There are a lot of different ways to say goodbye. Some require an adult's help, but all can be your special way of remembering your special pet.

One way to say goodbye is to get an adult's help and bury your pet in your yard. If you have a small pet, you can decorate a cardboard box to put them in. You can use paints or markers to color and write on it. You can also use a towel or your pet's blanket to place inside the box for them to lay on.

When you bury your pet you can also have a funeral. A funeral is a gathering of family and friends who all say goodbye in their own way. Some might want to talk about the pet and share stories. Some might want to pray and some might want to be quiet. There's no right or wrong way to have funeral. Afterwards you might want to have a pot-luck or some snacks so everyone can be together for a little while.

Maybe you can't bury your pet for some reason. That doesn't mean you can't have something like a funeral called a memorial. At a memorial a photo or drawing can be place on a table (you can even put flowers around it) and people share stories or pray just like at a funeral. And, afterwards people get together to talk and eat.

A funeral or memorial isn't the only way to say goodbye to your pet. Sometimes it's not enough. Sometimes you need to say goodbye more than once and in another way. Writing a letter can be helpful for some people. All you do is write and tell your pet whatever you want. You can tell them you miss them or what you've been doing since they left. When you're finished you can save the letter until you decide to throw it away. You might even decide to keep it forever. If you write more than one letter you can put them in a big envelope or notebook.



Some people are better at drawing than they are at writing. You can draw pictures of your pet or of whatever you like. You can also make a story or comic book about your pet.

When it's warm outside you can ask an adult to help you make a flower or rock garden. This is a really neat way to decorate your pet's grave if you have one. Craft stores sell memory stone kits so you can create one to mark your pet's grave or memorial spot.



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