

## WHEN IT IS TIME TO SAY GOOD-BY

It is hard to believe this is the seventh year for the Greater Cincinnati Pet Pages. How quickly time passes. Thinking about the passage of time I am reminded that our pet's lives are not as long as we would like. They are gone from us much too quickly. One subject I do not think I have discussed in any of my first six Pet Pages articles is the value of animal communication at the time when we feel the end of life for our beloved pets may be near.

No one likes the idea of their pet becoming sick. Certainly we do not want to think about the time when our pet will die. As this time draws near you may want to consider speaking with an animal communicator. The communicator can visit you and your pet and will give you a much better insight into what your pet is thinking and experiencing from your animals' point of view.

Animals do not view death in the same way that most humans do. They do not fear death but see it as a natural progression from life to the hereafter. (Our pets' spirits do go to heaven. Have no doubt in this matter.) That does not mean that we should ignore the dying process for your pets when the time comes. Needless to say, no animal wants to experience a long painful, debilitating illness that only gets worse with time. If the end of life comes as a result of a natural process or as a result of euthanasia we can do a great deal to make our animals passing as easy as possible.

We can make choices for our animals. Veterinarians can advise us in our options to prolong treatment or not. They can make the final days less painful with medications. We can engage their services to assist us in final arrangements for our pets. There are "pet hospice" groups that can also help us in the final days of our animals' life.

The animal communicator can tell you how your animal is currently feeling. They can describe how the animal is coping with mobility problems, pain management and other things such as enjoyment of life issues. When I consult with a pet and their owner we talk about the things a pet is currently feeling. Do they feel pain? Are they fearful because they cannot do some of the things they have done in the past?

I recently spoke with a dog who was very concerned because she could no longer take care of the other animals in the family. She felt that watching over the other animals and the humans in her household had always been her job. She could no longer do "her job". We reassured her that it was alright. She did not have to be concerned about looking after everyone. It was time for her to relax and enjoy her remaining time.

Sometimes animals are discouraged because they have lost control of their bodily functions. They may not be able to stand, walk, eat, or go outside without assistance from humans. These issues can be of great concern for the animal as well as their humans.

Animals can always tell us if there are still things that they find enjoyable about their life. It can be as simple as, "I enjoy eating the treats." "I enjoy being petted and/or sitting in the sunshine." When an animal no longer enjoys at least one or two things that have been pleasurable to them it is usually a sign that they are getting ready for the end of life. Animals will tell us if they want to stay or if they are ready to go. It can depend on many factors.

You may want to consider consulting an animal communicator to help you make some very important decisions about your animals' final days.

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