

from geckos to great danes:



Photo by Albritton Photography

Thinking About Cremation In Advance

*Written by Jenay Russell, MSSW, LMSW
Forever Friends Pet Crematory, Customer Relations*

Cultural attitudes toward owning pets mean that domestic animals are viewed more and more as family members. Whether you consider a gecko or great dane a member of the family, it is the mission of Forever Friends Pet Crematory to provide the dignified afterlife option of cremation to our pet parents and their families. When that time comes, some families have prepared for that moment, but due to unexpected loss, others have not had the opportunity. Having experienced these devastating situations, the decision to begin discussing options beforehand may ease grief associated with the loss.

Burial has often been a preferred choice, whether it is a special place at home or a local pet cemetery. The concept of pet cremation remains unfamiliar for many pet owners. According to the Cremation Association of North America, it is predicted that by 2020 more than half of all Americans will elect cremation for themselves or their family members. As the cremation choice increases for humans, so does this option for the family pet. This can be attributed to increasingly movable lifestyles and the religious relaxation of mandates in favor of cremation.

It is the goal of Forever Friends to bring transparency and education when contemplating this option. The decision to cremate leads to several frequently asked questions.

How does cremation take place?

Cremation is conducted in a specially designed machine that uses a thermal process to reduce remains to bone fragments. The process can take 30 minutes to several hours. The final step is to dignifiedly process the remaining bone fragments producing a specialized fine ash.

What will my pets ashes look like?

Technically ash is termed “cremains.” Cremain amount, consistency and color vary depending on the bone composition and generally resemble a dark to light grey hue “powder” substance. They are sealed in a 3cm medical bag to protect from moisture and accidental spillage. Attractive complementary urns are provided. Additionally custom urns can be purchased.

What do I do if my pet passes at home?

Forever Friends Pet Crematory generally operates on a schedule of 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday. During scheduled working hours, veterinarian clinic and home pick up is offered. Emergency situations, after hours and on weekends, pick up fees apply and is based on geographic proximity. However, the crematory is an ON-SITE business location and by appointment staff would be available for intake at no additional fee.

How do I know the returned ashes are MY pet's?

As a pet parent, it is encouraged to ask questions and be informed of your options. There are two cremation processes to choose, private or communal. Private: Only one pet is placed in the cremation chamber and cremated. Cremains are *returned* to the client, generally within a week. In providing integrity, private cremation may include viewing and accompanying special toys, blankets, and pictures approved by staff. Communal: To cremate several pets in a cremation chamber at one time with no regard for keeping pets separated. This process allows for the commingling of cremated remains. *No cremated*

remains are returned to the client. Some families that cannot emotionally bear the return of their loved one may choose this dignified and environmental option. Our staff documents with specialized intake forms for each individual pet. Signature authorization is required noting which option is chosen. Documentation follows the pet throughout the entire cremation process from intake to return.

The loss of a loved one will remain a difficult situation. The question of how to memorialize your pet remains unique as the relationship. Each pet is special and will require slightly different treatment. At Forever Friends Pet Crematory, our philosophy is honest and dignified. In choosing cremation, pet parents and their families have the freedom to treat each one as an individual. During such an emotionally difficult time, we assure peace and satisfaction with your family's decision for cremation.

Facilitating our community with education on the subject of pet loss is just a continuation of respectfully assisting our customers. Please share a memorial and join the circle of support at *face book forever friends pet crematory*. Arrangements can be made either through your veterinarian or directly with our office. Please visit our website at www.foreverfriendspetcrematory.com or call 318-265-9563 for pricing and custom urn selections.

*“Your Pet Memorial Path Begins
At Forever Friends”*



Forever Friends Pet Crematory

www.foreverfriendspetcrematory.com

318-265-9563

3942 Hwy 822

Dubach, LA 71235



Decorative Bronze Urns



Laser Engraved Image Urns



Handmade Wood Urns



Join the Circle of Support at Facebook Forever Friends Pet Crematory!

State of Louisiana D&Q Registered and EPA Approved

