

forever friends

Memorializing Your Family Pet

Written by Jenay Russell, MSSW, LMSW

Forever Friends Pet Crematory, Customer Relations

Surprisingly, pet cremation is not a new concept and is more often becoming a personal choice for memorializing the family pet. Historically, pets have been honorably buried in a special area designated on personal property and shrines as the family pet cemetery. Some pets are also memorialized with burials in exclusive local pet cemeteries. Of which, our area has several. Full burials are always an option, but increasingly families are choosing to cremate their pet at a crematorium.

The cremation process used for pets is the same as with people. Laws require that crematory owners abide by environmental emission guidelines. Forever Friends Pet Crematory is a recognized State of Louisiana EPA and DEQ pet crematory. At Forever Friends, a family owned and operated on-site crematorium, we regard cremation as an honorable and ritualistic process.

There is a question that resonates with choosing this unique option of memorializing your family pet. "How do I know I am getting **my** pet's remains?" Forever Friends understands that trust during this emotionally difficult time is important. For small additional fee, we offer the option to view the chamber placement. Our methodical identification and charting system allows for consistency throughout the cremation process.

There are different types of cremation services you can request. For private cremation, your pet is respectfully individually placed in the cremation chamber, thereafter; the single pet's remains are gathered and dignifiedly processed. Once the cremation complete, the ashes are placed in a special plastic medical bag to prevent accidental spilling and to keep out moisture. Depending on the family's wishes, family pets can also be communally cremated, whereas ashes would not be returned. The ashes from such a cremation cannot be separated and are respectfully scattered by Forever Friends staff on designated private land. Some families that cannot emotionally bear the return of their loved one, may choose this dignified and environmental option.

Your pet's ashes can be stored and memorialized in various ways. They will be returned to your family from our crematorium in an attractive, wooden urn. Forever Friends Pet Crematory understands that urns are a unique memorial, respective of representing your pet. Knowing that what remains of your pet rests inside an urn inscribed with your pet's name and visuals, helps with the bereavement process. We allow our families to choose an upgrade urn of their choice to keep on special display wherever they so choose. Additional urn fees apply depending on customization. The ashes can also be buried in a pet cemetery or scattered in a special area set aside for this purpose at the cemetery. The final option would be to scatter or bury the ashes in a peaceful place of your choosing.

At Forever Friends, we will personally guide you during such an emotionally difficult time through all the various options we offer. We assure your peace and satisfaction with your family's decision for cremation. 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. You can also visit us on facebook.