

*Preparing for Goodbye Checklist*

*Preparing to say goodbye to a beloved pet can feel overwhelming, emotional, and deeply uncertain. This gentle companion guide was created to help families focus on comfort, connection, and practical support during this season of love and grief.*

**Comfort & care**

- Speak with your veterinarian about comfort and quality of life.
- Prepare blankets, medications, and mobility support nearby.
- Create a quiet resting space.
- Offer favorite treats or familiar comforts if appropriate.

**Practical decisions**

- Discuss aftercare options with your veterinarian.
- Gather important paperwork or keepsakes together.
- Write down emergency clinic information if needed.
- Prepare transportation plans if applicable.

**Memory & connection**

- Take photographs — even simple or imperfect ones.
- Save collars, paw prints, tags, or favorite toys.
- Record small sounds, routines, or habits.
- Say the things you want them to hear.

**Gentle reminders**

- You do not have to carry this alone.
- Taking photographs is not giving up.
- Love and grief can exist together.
- The goal is not perfection — only love.

**Family & emotional support**

- Talk honestly and gently with children.
- Allow space for tears, uncertainty, or silence.
- Consider how other pets may respond.
- Remember there is no correct way to grieve.

*Gentle reminder: There is no perfect goodbye. There is only the most loving one you can give.*