



Pet loss

For so many of us, our pets are as much family as humans, and we deeply mourn their loss, and the companionship they gave us.

- You may want to have your pet cremated, and the ashes kept in an urn or scattered in your garden. Or you may choose to bury your pet directly without cremation.
- Loss of a pet can be difficult for children. For many children, it is also important to have a goodbye ritual.
- Psychologists have long recognized that the grief suffered by pet owners after their pet dies is the same as that experienced after the death of a person. The death of a pet means the loss of a non-judgmental love source.

About ...



Rev. Thurlow Weed is a Priest of the Progressive Episcopal Church, and serves the greater Fairfield County community.

I offer religious as well as earth-centered celebrations of life for our beloved animal companions.

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**ST. LUKE'S PROGRESSIVE
EPISCOPAL MISSION**

Lancaster, Ohio



ST. LUKE'S
PROGRESSIVE
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MISSION

Pet Funerals

Pet burials and memorials have existed for a long time. The oldest known pet cat was found in a 9,500 year old grave on the island of Cyprus, buried with a human.



Losing a pet

We know how much pets mean to most people. People love their pets

and consider them members of their family. So when a beloved pet dies, it's not unusual to feel overwhelmed by the intensity of your sorrow.

Animals provide companionship, acceptance, emotional support, and unconditional love. If you understand and accept this bond between humans and animals, you've already taken the first step toward coping with pet loss: knowing that it is okay to grieve when your pet dies.

Finding ways to cope with your loss can bring you closer to the day when memories bring smiles instead of tears.

Created in God's image, we, too, seek to sustain all life. In the Book of Samuel, the prophet Nathan tells David about the relationship of a poor man and a little lamb: "He tended it, and it grew up together with him and his children: it used to share his morsel of bread, drink from his cup, and nestle in his bosom; it was like a daughter to him." (II Samuel 12:3) Such was this man's bond of love for his animal companion.

Similarly, on a daily basis, many of us take care of our precious pets, our beloved animal-children, by feeding and sheltering them, by petting, walking, and playing with them. And, at the same time, in sustaining life, we are sustained.

Our devoted companions protect and take care of us not only physically but also emotionally and spiritually. Ours is gratitude and reverence for their honest and humble example, generosity of spirit, and unconditional love.



Services

Ancient Jewish sources provided for burial rites for pets, and were quite beautiful in their language.

There are also non-religious but deeply spiritual and earth-centered rituals.

I offer simple yet beautiful memorial rituals for your pet or animal companion. The service can be in your garden or in your living room.

