



Burying A Pet At Home

Many families would like to keep their beloved companion animals close to their hearts by opting for a home burial.

Please check with your municipality to ensure the burial of pets is legal and the specific laws and rules for this. In the City of Winnipeg, it is allowed, but if you are renting a house, check with your landlord/rental agency if home burial is allowed on the property. It would be helpful to call 311 or your municipality to mark your property for any utility lines.

Regardless of where you are located, there are some important guidelines to follow in burying your pet to protect local wildlife and waterways. Euthanized animals contain medication that can be very harmful, or even lethal if ingested by either scavenging or leaching into the water.

Some other helpful tips:

1. Wrap your loved one in a small blanket, t-shirt, or pillowcase. Avoid any kind of plastics as they can slow down the natural process of absorption back into the earth.
2. An urn or box is not necessary unless you have something particular in mind. Your local pet crematory, or a quick online search, (PawPods.com is our favourite) will pull up many options if this interests you.
3. If you need to delay the burial, you may want to place your pet's body in an air-tight plastic container and put your pet in your refrigerator or freezer.
4. Use a headstone or a decorative piece to discourage digging (there are some great local memorial companies as well as Etsy that have a number of customizable memorials available).
5. If you elect to have your pet cremated the buried, using an organic soil mixture along with the cremains will create a nutrient-rich mixture that will benefit the earth and help plants around the burial site flourish. *Burying cremains with no mixture can be too concentrated in carbon to allow for proper plant growth.*

6. When digging a hole, ensure that the top of the body is covered with at least three (3) feet of earth. If this depth is not attainable, it is important to cover the hole with a large rock or wire to prevent digging by wildlife. Note that:
 - Euthanized pet remains contain many medications, are poisonous, and could possibly be fatal other animals who would ingest it including scavenging animals and birds. These medications can remain for **years** in the same location.
 - Pets that have died of a contagious disease should always be cremated.
 - A deceased animal may leak body fluids after passing.
 - Deceased animals should not be buried in sandy soils, black land, rocky soil, flood land or around a home's foundation.
 - Animal graves must not be located within **200 feet (60m)** of any lake, stream, rivers, open drains, or groundwater and **500 feet (155m)** from a well that is used to supply potable drinking water.
 7. Place a layer of lime (calcium hydroxide) at the bottom of the hole and on the body.
 8. Compress the earth and level the soil.
 9. Take a moment to yourself.
 10. Finally, if you ever sell your property, it is important to notify the future buyers of the presence of any animals that may be buried on the land euthanized via a veterinarian. You may be liable if their pet comes in contact with the location of a buried pet that could contain the medications used to euthanize a pet.
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*Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss...
our thoughts are with you and your family during this
difficult time.*