

What to expect during euthanasia



- **Sedation [optional]:** On occasion, we will recommend giving a sedative first to make your pet sleepy, calm, and comfortable, preventing stress or agitation. This usually takes 10–15 minutes to take full effect. You are welcome to be present while we inject your pet and as your pet gets sleepy. There is an additional cost for this service.
 - **Preparation for euthanasia:** We will take your pet to the back of the practice and place a cannula into the vein, usually into the front leg, to make injection of the anaesthetic as simple and stress-free as possible. We will then bring your pet back to you to say your final goodbyes.
- **Euthanasia:** The vet or nurse (often assisted by a nurse) will administer the final injection, which acts as a powerful anaesthetic overdose.
 - **Passing:** Your pet will drift into a deep sleep and lose consciousness, followed by the heart and breathing stopping, usually within seconds.
 - **Reflexes:** Sometimes, natural post-death reflexes may occur after your pet has passed away, such as muscle twitching, some final gasps, or loss of bladder/bowel control. These are not painful or conscious movements. They can last from a few minutes to up to 20 minutes.
 - **Aftercare:** The vet will confirm your pet has passed away using a stethoscope, after which you can spend quiet time with them.
 - **Cremation/Burial:** please let the vet or nurse know whether you would like to take your pet home to bury, or have decided on communal cremation (NO ashes back) or private cremation (with ashes back).

Burial/Cremation options:

Home burial: you will take your pet back home to bury, for example, in your garden. You will pay us for the euthanasia.

Communal cremation: Holywell Pet Funeral Services will collect your pet from us. Your pet will be cremated alongside other pets at their Crematorium. You will NOT receive ashes back. You will pay us for the euthanasia and the communal cremation.

Private cremation: Holywell Pet Funeral Services (or another Crematorium of your choice) will collect your pet from us within 24 hours of the euthanasia. Your pet will be cremated at their Crematorium individually and you will receive your pet's ashes back in an urn. You will pay us for the euthanasia. You will pay Holywell Pet Funeral Services for the cremation. Please speak to Holywell to inform them of your wishes for the cremation and confirm their costs. As a very rough guide, please budget for at least £300 for the cremation (prices increase the larger your pet). Some owners prefer to have the euthanasia with us and then drive their pet to the Crematorium themselves. Please discuss this option with the Crematorium in advance to book an arrival time slot.