



PET EMERGENCY PLANNER • RESOURCE 3 OF 5

How to Prepare Your Home for a Peaceful Passing

Creating a space of love, comfort, and calm
for your pet's final chapter

*"Home is where they felt safest.
Let it be where they find their peace."*

Creating a Comfortable, Peaceful Space

One of the greatest gifts of at-home end-of-life care is the ability to surround your pet with everything familiar — their favorite smells, the sounds of home, the people they love. A little thoughtful preparation makes a meaningful difference in creating an experience that is calm and full of dignity.

Setting Up Their Space

Choose a Quiet, Familiar Location

Pick a room or area where your pet feels most at ease — their usual sleeping spot, a favorite couch, or a sun-warmed corner. Avoid high-traffic, noisy, or cold areas. The goal is minimal stimulation and maximum comfort.

Create a Soft, Supportive Bed

Layer soft blankets and their favorite bedding. Add a familiar item like your worn T-shirt or their beloved toy. For pets with mobility issues or sores, consider a memory foam or orthopedic pad. Make it a nest of warmth and safety.

Keep the Environment Calm

Dim bright lights if possible. Soft, natural light is ideal. Turn off or lower loud TVs. Some families find that gentle music, nature sounds, or simply quiet togetherness helps both their pet and themselves feel calmer.

Have Familiar Comfort Items Nearby

Their favorite toy, a piece of your clothing, or a special treat they still enjoy. The familiar smells of home and family are profoundly comforting to animals, even when they are very ill.

Ensure Easy Access

If your pet has mobility challenges, make sure their space is accessible. Remove barriers, lower food and water bowls, use ramps instead of stairs if possible. Their last days should require as little effort as possible to be comfortable.

Items to Have Ready on the Day

For Your Pet

- Their softest, most familiar blanket
- A special treat or their favorite food
- Favorite toy or comfort object
- Any medications Dr. Dixon has prescribed
- Water and bowl nearby (if they're drinking)

For the Family

- Tissues and a quiet space to sit together
- A few special photos if desired
- A blanket or item to wrap them in afterward
- Phone silenced or set to do-not-disturb
- Aftercare arrangements confirmed in advance

What to Expect During the Process

Understanding what will happen during an at-home euthanasia appointment helps many families feel more peaceful and less frightened. Dr. Dixon will walk you through every step — you will never be alone in this.

Dr. Dixon Arrives

Dr. Dixon arrives quietly at your home, prepared and unhurried. There is no clinical rush. She will take time to meet your pet where they are, allow them to settle, and talk with your family about the process and answer any last questions.

A Sedative is Often Given First

Many veterinarians — including Dr. Dixon — begin with a gentle sedative injection that allows your pet to relax completely and drift into a deep, comfortable sleep before the final medication. This ensures there is no anxiety or awareness in the final moments.

The Final Medication

Once your pet is peacefully sedated, a final medication is administered. It is quick, gentle, and painless. Within moments, breathing slows and stops, and the heart becomes still. Many families describe it as watching their pet simply fall into a deeper sleep.

Time to Say Goodbye

Dr. Dixon will confirm that your pet has passed peacefully, then quietly step back to give your family as much time as you need. There is no rush. Stay as long as you need — hold them, speak to them, cry. This time is yours.

Aftercare Arrangements

Dr. Dixon can assist with coordination of aftercare services (private cremation, communal cremation, home burial guidance) as arranged in advance. You will not need to make last-minute decisions alone.

You may feel many things in these moments — grief, relief, love, sadness, and sometimes peace. All of these are right. There is no wrong way to feel when you are saying goodbye to someone you love. Dr. Dixon has witnessed hundreds of these moments, and she will hold this space with you with deep respect and care.

Supporting Other Pets and Family Members

Other Pets in the Home

- Allow other pets to be present if they are calm — many benefit from understanding what happened
- Allow surviving pets to smell and investigate afterward if they wish; this helps with their own grieving
- Watch for behavioral changes in surviving pets in the days following — grief is real for animals too
- Keep routines as consistent as possible for surviving pets

Children & Family Members

- Let children choose whether they want to be present — don't force it, but don't exclude them
- Use honest, age-appropriate language ("died" rather than "put to sleep")
- Let everyone grieve differently — there is no timeline for this
- Consider a small ritual: planting a flower, creating a memory box, or writing a letter

Dr. Dixon comes to you — at home, in peace.

Schedule your at-home end-of-life consultation at a time that feels right for your family.

(704) 274-2999

shayshayvet.com/schedule-appointment