

The final act of caring - Euthanasia

End of life issues are perhaps the most difficult thing we encounter with our companion animals.

After the years of joy we share with our pets, knowing when the right time is to let them go can be a difficult question to answer.

We can help you through this process by discussing quality of life issues and keeping them comfortable until the time is right to selflessly let them go.

As part of our palliative care program we also offer a **in home** euthanasia service when it becomes clear that your pet's quality of life can no longer be sustained through with medical and caregiver support.

Reasons to choose a home euthanasia include:

- Privacy and personalization – the procedure can be performed in your home or your pet's special place
- Less time constraints – spend as much time with your pet before and after the visit
- Less stress and fear for your pet – you can farewell your pet in the comfort and familiarity of her own environment

After Care Services

We can arrange for your pet to be individually cremated and the ashes returned to you in a receptacle of your choice.

All cremation services are provided through Mountain High Crematorium based in Mansfield Vic.

For other body care options, please ask us.



The Billy Care story...

Our "Billy Care" animal hospice and palliative care program is named in the memory of "Bill" – Dr Malcolm's loyal companion and friend for over 12 years who passed away in August 2013 from congestive heart failure.

Heart disease is a terminal illness – there is no cure and no definitive prognosis.

From the time of diagnosis – our goal was to make "Bill's" final months the absolute best they could be.

He continued to go to work daily doing what he loved most – meeting and greeting clients and their pets and going out on farm visits.

Daily medications kept him comfortable and helped him get the most out of each day.

As the disease progressed his medications were changed as needed and his quality of life assessed on numerous levels.

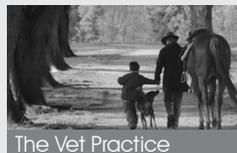
Through palliative care "Bill" managed to live another 14 months after diagnosis which is a powerful testimonial to the benefits of modern medicine and daily care by a loving owner.

We hope to pass on to others what "Bill" taught us about life, love and the power of the human – animal bond.

"Special Care for Special Friends"



Compassionate Palliative
and End of Life Care for
Pets with Terminal Illness



Whittlesea
2394 Plenty Rd Whittlesea
P: 9716 2495

South Morang
Cnr Plenty Rd & Allan Ave
South Morang
P: 9437 7777

E: clients@thevetpractice.com.au
W: www.thevetpractice.com.au

IAAHPC
International Association of Animal Hospice and Palliative Care

What is animal hospice and palliative care?

When a pet is diagnosed with a terminal illness such as cancer, many people believe the only options available are further expensive diagnostic tests and treatment, (even though there is no effective cure) or immediate humane euthanasia.

However this is not true. In most situations there is always some time between diagnosis and the need for euthanasia and this is where a **Animal hospice and Palliative care** service can be a beneficial solution for both you and your pet.

The aim of our hospice program is to provide compassionate relief from terminal illness **in the comfort of your own home** until such time the final end of life decision is necessary.

We developed the program as a respect for the bond you have with your special companion, giving you time to share special moments together during that final end of life journey.

Goals of animal hospice and palliative care

- To give pets a safe, caring and intimate end of life experience in their familiar home environment
- To provide pain control and physical comfort to ensure adequate quality of life
- To teach and support you to care for your pet's medical and emotional needs at home
- To provide time for you and your family to adjust to your pet's progressive disease and say goodbye in your own special way.
- To provide educational and emotional support throughout the end of life journey

Is hospice care right for my pet?

If your pet has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, we can advise you if our hospice care program is a suitable option.

Hospice and Palliative care can be for as long or short as you decide based on your personal choices and your pet's condition. Some pets may be under palliative care for only a few days and others may remain in the program for several weeks – even months or years depending on the nature of the illness and regular quality of life assessment.

Some illnesses that benefit from Hospice and comfort care include:

- Debilitating arthritis
- Cancer
- Kidney or liver disease
- Heart disease
- Metabolic diseases such as Addisons, Cushings
- Endocrine diseases such as Diabetes, Hypothyroidism (Dogs) Hyperthyroidism (Cats)



Program outline

Our staff is dedicated to helping you and your pet's bond remain strong during the emotional journey ahead.

As you begin this transitional time we will provide the following guidance to help you get started with confidence.

- Over the phone and email support 24/7
- Regular home visits and QOL assessment
- Instructions on how to give your pet's medication
- Information on disease progression and crisis management
- Daily enrichment programs
- Help in deciding when the time is right for Euthanasia
- Aftercare options
- Grief support

Our cat and dog hospice care is designed to provide your pet with a personalised palliative care plan that is right for them. Our goal is to make your pet's final days comfortable and enjoyable. Treatment may be modified as needed throughout and include:

- Pain Management
- Nutritional Therapy
- Wound Care
- Environmental comfort
- Mental stimulation

We use a veterinary hospice approved (QOL) Quality of Life Scale to monitor your pet's progress throughout the program to ensure quality of life is maintained.

Frequency of Home care visits are tailored to your needs and the nature of your pet's condition.