right. Parameters such as:

- When my pet stops enjoying treats
- When my pet stops eating
- When they can no longer find their litter box
- When they can no longer find the door

The decision about those boundaries has to be right for you and your pet. Ask a pet-loving friend or family member to be your companion at this time and to assist you through this emotional journey.

When you have found yourself in the place of considering euthanasia, your grief journey has already begun. Be kind to yourself, find the support that you will need during this time, and allow yourself the time to make the decisions that are best for YOUR heart.

Things to Remember

Making this decision for your beloved pet will involve others that have been in your pet's life. Family members, friends, and other pets will be affected by this decision as well. Understanding everyone's emotional connection to the relationship that was shared with the pet will aid in guiding you before, during and after the procedure.

Allowing children to be present during this euthanasia process itself will be a personal decision that a parent will have to make. Deciding factors will be the age of the child as well as their maturity level. However, in all situations with a child, it is important to use the correct terminology regarding euthanasia and how the decision was made to perform this final act of love. "Going to sleep," "put to sleep," and "destroy" are some words that will create anxiousness in a child regarding the euthanasia. By using correct medical terminology, it will be easier to assist the child through their grieving journey.

Regardless of their presence at the actual process, children of all ages certainly have their right to say good-bye to this beloved pet. Other "pet friends" will also want to have their time to say good-bye too. The grief journey will be unique to each participant as each one "remembers" his or her pet friend who has died a "good and fortunate death."

You will be sad, I understand.
Don't let your grief then stay your hand.
For this day, more than all the rest,
Your love for me must stand the test.
I know in time that you will see
The kindness that you did for me.
Although my tail its last has waved,
From pain and suffering I've been saved
Unknown.

For more helpful information, visit
www.TwoHeartsPetLossCenter.com
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The word euthanasia comes to us from the Greek word that means "good or fortunate death".

However, when you choose to euthanize a pet, this will certainly not feel anything like "good" or "fortunate." The emotions will be those of conflicted feelings. On one hand, the procedure may be done to end the suffering of an ill pet while on the other hand the grief that will be associated with this loss will seem unbearable.



What Should I Do

If you are making the decision to euthanize, your veterinarian can be the guide for you during this time. More than likely, there will be medical discussions, quality of life discussions, financial discussions, and every other element of end-of-life care factors that will need to be a part of the thought process. There will be another part of this decision that you should also consider, the fact that you are the pet parent and you know your pet better than anyone does. As the guardian of this pet, you are intuitively aware of your pet's emotions, feelings, and communicative nature, all points of consideration during this emotional decision making time.

If you have already chosen to have your beloved pet euthanized, trusting and accepting that you have made the right decision with the information that you had at that particular time will be critical at this point.

Making Sense of My Emotions

While it may seem absolutely unbearable, having personal time with your pet before and during the euthanasia procedure will give your heart the peace of mind in knowing that your beloved friend knew you were with them the whole time. Pets are intuitive and will certainly "feel" your feelings. We become deeply connected with our pets and this time together at the end will not be any different.

It is important to work through all of your emotions surrounding the euthanasia. Not only the emotions of euthanizing a pet but also the informational aspect of this process as well. Some people feel it important to consult with various sources to gain more information into euthanasia. Other sources might be:



- A pet hospice group to assist with the pain management care at home for the pet
- Friends that have euthanized and who understand the emotions associated with this act
- Counselors specializing in End-of-Life Pet Care
- Prayer groups
- Ministers
- And, for some, reaching out to another spiritual dimension with the use of Animal Communicators

Managing the Guilt

The feeling of guilt will also be present. Guilt in the fact that you are faced with this decision – "playing God" as some view it. In addition, guilt in the fact that you question the timing of the procedure – "When is the right time?"

As a pet parent/guardian, knowing that your pet is suffering, whether physically or mentally, will be the center of the reflection that you will do as you make the decision on euthanasia. Therefore, while some will look at it as "playing God" in ending a life, there will also be an aspect of love that will guide you in your decision-making process. A love that will guide you in this unselfish decision to help a pet who is in pain.

There will also be guilt in understanding what the "right" time is. As a pet parent/guardian, you know your pet. As you prepare yourself in making this decision, establish parameters that you will adhere to in deciding when the time is