Memorialization

To honor and give tribute

- A bubble release can help symbolically release your pet's spirit.
- The planting of a tree/shrub/flower in honor of your pet is a nice testimony to the Circle of Life.

Things to Remember

What you choose to do to memorialize your beloved pet will be what is right for you. While other individuals may have an opinion regarding a tribute for your pet, the rituals or memorialization items that you choose are yours and should signify the love and the life that you shared together. Rituals, ceremony and memorial pieces are unique to every individual. Friends and family members may or may not understand this need. However, these pieces are all a part of the rituals of the mourning process, meant to assist the grieving heart in moving through the journey of grief.

'In the night of death, hope sees a star, and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing."-Robert Ingersoll

"There is sadness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition and of unspeakable love. ."

-Washington Irving

For more helpful information, visit
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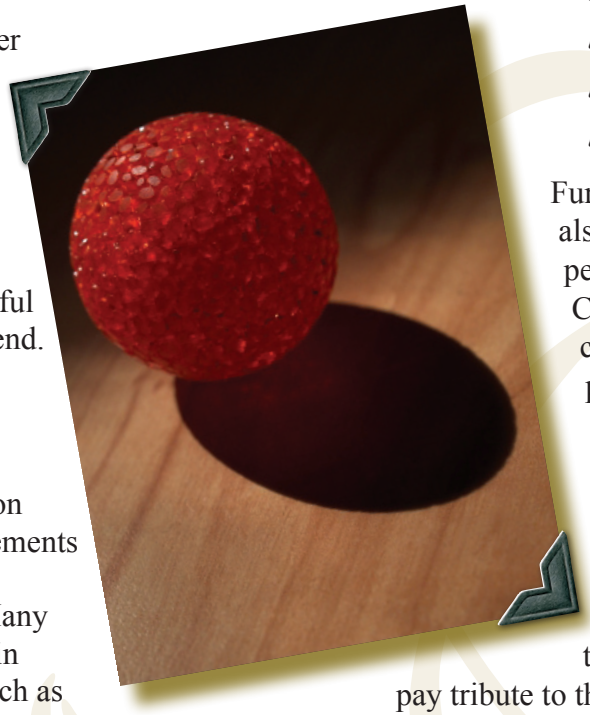


Black Hawk Pet Crematory
4141 30th St. Rock Island, IL 61201
ph 309-235-0992 www.blackhawkpet.com

a companion for your journey

What's My Role

There is no wrong answer when it comes to the right way to memorialize a beloved pet. What you and/or your family decide to do to pay tribute to a deceased pet should be what is fitting for you and should be reflective of the life that was shared.



As many families ponder this issue of memorialization, the maze can be vast and confusing. However, a few questions that you can ask yourself will guide you in this beautiful tribute to your furry friend.

Options to Consider

The first part of your memorialization decision will be the final arrangements for your pet's body: cremation or burial? Many factors will play a role in this decision, factors such as religion, living arrangements, county rules, etc. Furthermore, also consider your future living situation. For instance, if you are not going to live in this particular area for the rest of your life, are you comfortable burying your pet at this location? Or, as you move throughout your career and life, will it be more important to have your deceased pet(s) ashes with you?

After you have made this particular final arrangement decision, you will then want to decide on what types of physical pieces you will want to honor your pet's life. Items such as:

- Casket
- Urn
- Artwork
- Jewelry
- Markers

Furthermore, many families also want to memorialize their pet's life with a service or a Celebration of Life event. You can do many things in the privacy of your own home or with other friends and family members joining in the tribute. However, there may also be rituals that you will want to do privately to pay tribute to the times that you shared with your pet – and the special memories that you want to preserve. These events might look like:



- Continue to take the daily walks you did with your friend – use this time to reflect and remember.
- Lighting a candle at a special time daily in remembrance of your pet.
- Journaling.
- Cuddling with the blanket that your pet like to use.

In a more public forum, there are rituals that you can do with your family and friends to ceremonially acknowledge the life of your pet and the significance that this pet had in other's lives as well. Some questions to ask yourself as you are planning this gathering are:

- What are the things that my pet liked to do? Be outside? Curled up by the fire? Running by the creek? Is it important to incorporate these surroundings or activities into the gathering?
- Was there a certain food or treat that my pet especially liked? Should I include this as part of the tribute?
- Create a special book for your pet where others can record their favorite memories and leave a tribute.
- As you invite others to the Celebration of Life, encourage them to bring a contribution for a local pet shelter in honor of your pet.