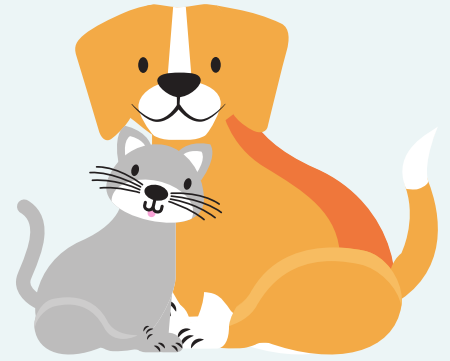


OUR INTENTIONS



OUR RATIONALE

The Ontario SPCA and Humane Society's AnimalSmart™ program offers educational content to students to learn more about how to provide for our animals while showing them care, compassion and respect. During these times, we often find children seeking guidance and sharing their experiences with the passing of an animal. We want to provide resources for teachers and parents/guardians to provide support for their children while managing these difficult times.

OUR AUDIENCE

These resources are intended for adults to help guide children through the loss of an animal. Grieving the death of an animal is hard at any age, but can heavily impact children. We want to create space for families and children to remember and cherish the life of their beloved companion animal.

GENTLE GOODBYES -AFTER THE PASSING OF AN ANIMAL-

1. HONOUR YOUR COMPANION ANIMAL

- Look at pictures
- Share stories
- Create a memory box

2. READ BOOKS ABOUT ANIMALS, AND HOW WE CAN SAY GOODBYE TO THEM

3. BE CREATIVE

- Create a scrapbook or draw a picture
- Write or read a poem

OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

When a furry friend must leave us, crossing bridges in the sky,
they find a place of peace and love, where playful spirits never die.

Over the Rainbow Bridge they prance, in a land of endless fun,
with gentle winds and rainbows bright, their journey's just begun.

Their paws now dance on fluffy clouds, their tails wag in pure delight,
in meadows painted with joyous colours, they chase dreams day and night.

Though tears may fall from little eyes, the Rainbow Bridge is not the end,
for love transcends beyond the stars, and in my heart, you'll stay my friend.

So let the laughter of their tales, echo in your heart so dear,
for across the Rainbow Bridge they've gone, but their love will linger near.

ALL ABOUT MY FURRY FRIEND

Name: _____

They were a: _____

They had _____ **fur.**



Favourite things to do: _____



Favourite treat or toy:

ALL ABOUT MY FURRY FRIEND

A picture of us

CREATING YOUR MEMORY BOX

HOW TO

Creating a memory box is a creative way for families and/or children to preserve a special space for their loved companion animal after they pass. Storing memories and special items that remind them of their animal allows them to revisit their companion animal whenever they need or want to. On the following page, you will find suggestions for what you could include in your animal's memory box. Please use them as suggestions to honour your animal in the best way you see fit.

It is important to remember that the items stored within the memory box should be items that can be stored safely.



CREATE A MEMORY BOX

What to include in your animal's memory box:



Their collar/ID tags/leash



Their food bowl



Their favourite toy



Empty bag of their favourite treat



Photos of you and your animal



Memorialized item of your animal like a clay paw print



Things that remind you of your animal

SUGGESTED READING LIST

The Goodbye Book - By: Todd Parr

The Forever Dog - By: Bill Cochran

The Invisible Leash - By: Patrice Karst

The Rainbow Bridge - By: Adrian Rasside

Saying Goodbye to Lulu - By: Corinne Demas

Harry & Hopper - By: Margaret Wild & Freya Blackwood

Big Cat, Little Cat - By: Elisha Cooper

Why Do I Feel Sad? - By: Tracy Lambert



RESOURCES

Children and Pets - Grief Following the Loss of a Dog

<https://ucacanada.com/know-your-pet/children-and-pets-grief-following-loss-of-a-dog>

9 Family Friendly Ways to Memorialize your Pet

<https://www.theralphsite.com/index.php?idPage=96>

When a Pet Dies: Helping Kids Cope (Adult Guide)

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/pet-death.html>

15 Unique Things to Put in your Animal's Memory Box

<https://www.joincake.com/blog/pet-memory-box/>