

## THE DEATH OF THE PET

It is a long and very hard subject.

In our veterinary enter between 20 and 50 patients a day and 10% are severe or dying, either by having contracted parvovirus, distemper or simply because they are very old and have completed the cycle of life. That is to say, it is a matter of every day.

Often the owners are prepared to face this and, in turn, they are not.

Where am I going with this?

To that the silence that a route partner leaves when it goes away of this world is often very hard, harder than the death itself of the animal. It is the ugly side of our profession.

### **Pet dies ...**

**What do we do with the body?** There are several options.

On the one hand, that the owner take the body and bury it in the back yard of his house, or in an open field or in a pet cemetery. But the moment is still very hard and very hard until he buries the pet.

On the other hand, an option that we offer to relieve the moment is to be removed for pathological waste, or we bury him in my field, La Crucecita, located at the base of the mountain (and in which there are more than 500 dogs and many cats buried there).

We, at our vet, for many years did not perform euthanasia because the owner generally gets a very nasty feeling of that last time and, often, makes a change of veterinary.

But the most important thing for me, and there the veterinarian plays a more than important role. It is **THE DAY AFTER, THE SILENCE** that leaves the pet who is no longer there; even more if the dog or cat lived inside the house and slept at the foot of the bed. And, if it was the only one pet, a fortiori.

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That's when **we have to hide the pain as soon as possible**, especially if the person is older and lives alone or almost alone. In general, owners who recently lost their stalwart partner, do not want to enter another animal of replacement for the fondness to the one that went away, but it is necessary to try to make it as soon as possible through his children, friends, neighbors or companions.

That is, "**to cheat the owner of the died dog**". Sometimes with white lies like "I found it lost in the street" or "¿could you take care of it for a few days until I can find his owner?". This is much more important than the reader could think.

I leave my concerns and experience of over thirty years. **The work of a small animal vet** does not end when the animal dies or when we take charge of the body of the pet, it **ends when we knew or could be part of the replacement of the new pet.**

I hope this be useful to you.

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