



An Aid to a Private Pet Burial



Burial of animal bodies is often not permitted in urban and suburban areas. Electing to bury a pet on private property is the responsibility of the pet owner. Burial should only be performed in accordance with local and state laws and with the landlord or property owner's authorization.

There are no official guidelines for the proper disposal of deceased animals. To protect human, animal, and environmental health, please follow these guidelines:

1. A Euthabag can be provided and used to contain your pet's remains once buried. The bag itself is not biodegradable, which prevents leaking of body fluids and toxic substances into the environment. If the Euthabag is used, some families who move may choose to excavate their pet to keep their pet nearby.
2. When digging a hole for burial, ensure that the **TOP** of the body is covered with at least **two feet** of earth. If this depth is not attainable, it is important to cover the hole with a large boulder and/or cover with galvanized wire to prevent digging by wildlife. Note that:
 - Pets with any contagious disease should be cremated, not buried.
 - Cold or Frozen ground may not allow for a proper burial.
 - Euthanized pet remains are toxic and may be fatal to other animals who would ingest it or surrounding dirt/water around the buried pet.
 - A deceased animal may leak body fluids after passing and as they decompose.
 - Deceased animals should not be buried in sandy soils, black land, rocky soil, flood land, near by agricultural soil or a home foundation.
 - Buried animals must not come in contact with any surface bodies of water or groundwater including inland lakes, streams, rivers, or open drains.
 - Animal graves must not be located within **200** feet of any stream or groundwater and **500** feet from a well used to supply potable drinking water.
3. Place a layer of lime at the bottom of the hole and on the body.
4. Fill the gravesite, compress the earth and level the soil. Place a memorial marker, plant a tree or some flowers if desired.
5. Take a moment for yourself.
6. If you ever sell your property, it is important to notify the future buyers of the presence of any animals that may be buried on the land.

*Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss...
our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.*