



## Home Burial Guidelines

If you have just lost your beloved pet, you may want to memorialize them by burying them at home. The laws and regulations governing the removal or disposal of your pet, and whether it's legal to bury a dead pet on your property, can differ by municipality. Before attempting a pet burial on land you legally own, you should fully research and understand all laws pertaining to your property. Burial should only be performed in accordance with local laws and with the landlord's authorization. Check your municipality ordinances for restrictions. Home burial also poses risk to wildlife and domestic animals due to toxicity of the pet after euthanasia.

If opting to a home burial, you consent that you, the pet owner or pet owner's agent, are responsible for ensuring the following conditions are met.

1. You have ensured it is legal to bury the pet at the proposed site and have permission from the landlord to do so.
2. When preparing the body for burial, wrap your pet in a blanket, t-shirt or other fabric. Avoid plastic materials as they slow down the natural process of absorption back into the earth.
3. When preparing the gravesite, ensure that the top of the animal's body is covered with at least 3 feet of soil. This ensures that the space is deep enough (6 feet) to prevent curious animals from investigating the area. It is imperative to cover the top of the grave with large rocks or wire to prevent disturbance by wildlife.
4. Graves must be located at least 60m from surface and ground water and at least 150m from any wells with potable water. Avoid any flood planes.
5. Finally, if you were to 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.
6. Use a headstone or decorative piece to mark the area and commemorate your pet.

Please Note: Euthanized pet remains are poisonous and possibly deadly to wildlife and domestic animals who could ingest them. A pet that has died of a contagious disease should be professionally cremated. Animals should not be buried in sandy or rocky soils, flood land, or around a home's foundation. A deceased animal may leak bodily fluids after passing. Because of this, buried animals must not come in contact with any surface bodies of water or groundwater including inland lakes, streams, rivers or open drains.