

# 2019 Pulse Survey

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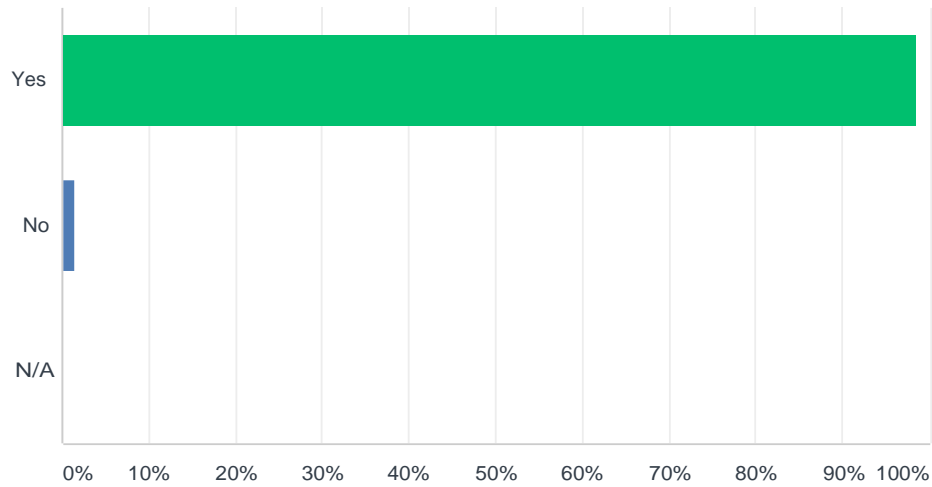
*Compassionate Goodbyes™*

BEREAVEMENT EDUCATION  
FOR VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS



# Animal companions play or have played an important part in my life.

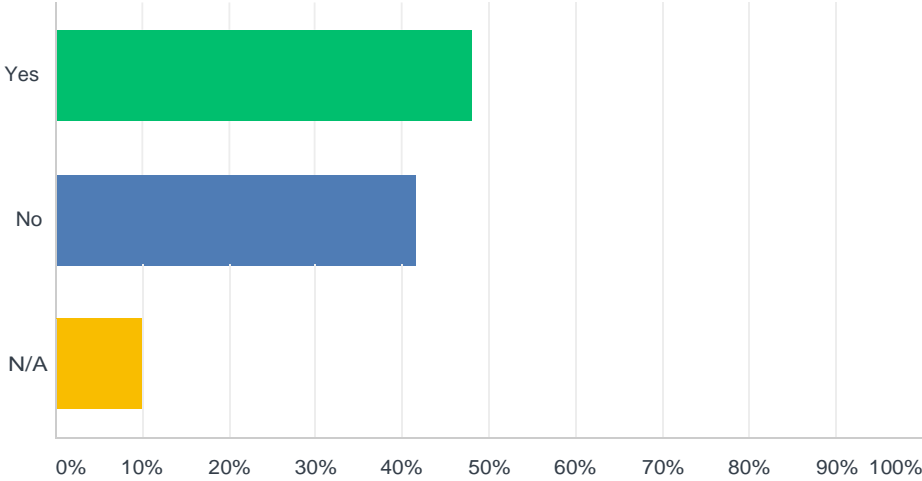
Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	98.54%	135
No	1.46%	2
N/A	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 137		

# My experiences with veterinary professionals at the end of a pet’s life could have gone better.

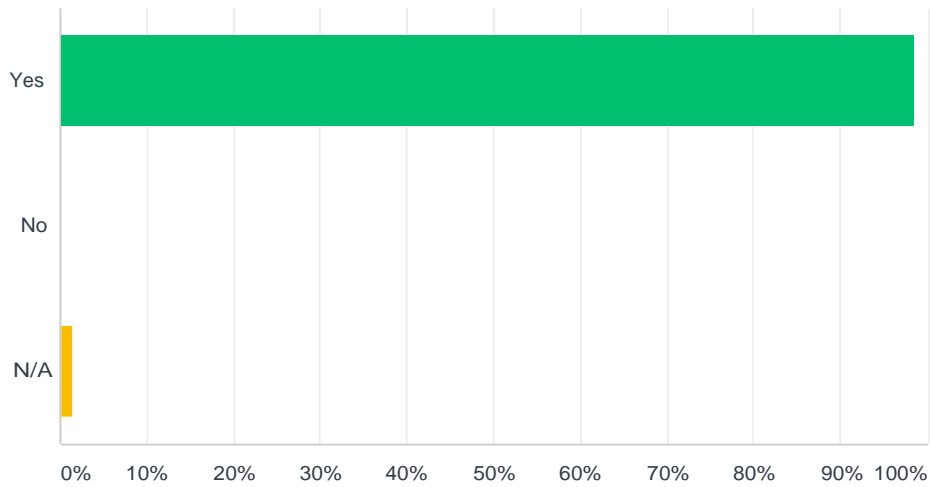
Answered: 137    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	48.18%	66
No	41.61%	57
N/A	10.22%	14
Total Respondents: 137		

# I think an RTS-modeled training for veterinary professionals would be beneficial.

Answered: 136 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	98.53%	134
No	0.00%	0
N/A	1.47%	2
Total Respondents: 136		

# What were the most significant issues you faced while navigating the end of your pet's life?

Answered: 125 Skipped: 12

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	n/a	6/20/2019 2:01 PM
2	Feeling like I was doing what was best for my pet.	6/7/2019 11:02 AM
3	Our Vet seemed very prepared and was quite compassionate. They even had people who made special burial bags for our dog since we wanted to bury at home.	6/3/2019 7:40 PM
4	1. Trying to arrive at the vet office in time. Unexpected finding in surgery. 2. Making the decision when the cat looked healthy, but was older and having behavioral issue that would have make it necessary for the cat to live in a cage the remainder of its life. This cat belonged to my mother who was no longer able to care for it, but she loved it dearly.	5/17/2019 8:01 AM
5	No one came in the room and we were left alone watching him suffer having seizures they did nothing to help with the suffering. And he was left alone because we could not handle seeing him suffer.	5/8/2019 8:10 AM
6	Support, guidance and spending time talking with me as we navigate a difficult decision based on quality of life.	5/5/2019 7:24 PM
7	One veterinarian was very cold and abrupt about wanting to get this "done" and that he needed the room. Luckily, other experiences we had with other animals have been much better.	5/4/2019 6:36 PM
8	Having my pet at the vet for extended periods and not at home.	4/30/2019 3:53 PM
9	N/A	4/29/2019 9:24 PM
10	how to justify spending extra time with my pet.	4/27/2019 6:49 AM
11	burial	4/26/2019 2:02 PM
12	Quilt at having to "put them down" instead of letting them go naturally.	4/26/2019 12:33 PM
13	The only animals I have had to put down are my rats. I was not able to be in the room with them and I wish I would have. I wanted to be there for them. I feel regret not being there.	4/26/2019 12:09 PM
14	Making the final decision to put my pet down	4/22/2019 9:05 PM
15	Making him comfortable. He was in significant neck pain.	4/22/2019 10:42 AM
16	It was like losing a big piece of my heart and not realizing how much of a impact that my dog played in my family	4/22/2019 9:53 AM
17	What to do for burial/cremation. There isn't a 'pet cemetery' to place a pet and you don't want to leave them behind when you move from your home.	4/20/2019 6:13 AM
18	Felt rushed once paperwork was signed. This was the first time we had to euthanize and I had no idea what to expect. I didn't know that we should have brought his bedding. .	4/19/2019 8:31 PM
19	Making the decision to euthanize	4/19/2019 3:06 PM
20	Spending a lot of money attempting to save the pet, then having to euthanize	4/19/2019 1:07 PM
21	The last pet I euthanized was in the exotic category, a guinea pig. That one was handled very well. She was treated with dignity and my grief was taken seriously.	4/19/2019 10:19 AM

22	I took our beagle, Daisy to the emergency vet (since it was a weekend and our vet was out of town) for seizures. They didn't believe me until she had a seizure in front of them. They whisked her away into a back room for treatment. When results came back we found she was in kidney failure and it was recommended to euthanize her. I had to ask to see her first. The procedure itself was awful. She reared up and looked absolutely panic stricken after the injection. They said she was already gone but it was obvious she wasn't. I still tear up thinking she suffered more than if I would have allowed her to die naturally. This contrasts so much to our experience with our own vet when we euthanized our lab a few months later due to diabetes, blindness and pain. Our vet injected her while I was feeding her peanut butter. She peacefully went to sleep.	4/19/2019 7:31 AM
23	It was a traumatic death in that the cat unexpectedly dashed underneath the truck as my husband was moving it and ran over him. He didn't die immediately and were afraid to move him but wanted to comfort him as he died. We cried for hours and my husband is still traumatized by the whole thing. we buried him in our back yard with his favorite toy. They is a small sleeping cat marker that is over his grave.	4/18/2019 9:20 PM
24	wish they would have made either an ink print or clay mold of Stellas paw.	4/18/2019 5:31 PM
25	Having a comfortable atmosphere to say goodbye to your pet at the vet office. It is a very sterile feeling.	4/18/2019 3:38 PM
26	Saying goodbye to someone I really love and coping with their absence from my home.	4/18/2019 11:19 AM
27	How do you know when the animal is in too much pain or it is time to euthanize?	4/18/2019 10:13 AM
28	As with any loss, helping my children deal with their sadness as well as my own	4/18/2019 9:14 AM
29	Guilt	4/18/2019 8:11 AM
30	Loss of a companion and friend	4/18/2019 5:41 AM
31	Cardiac medication dosing (for cardiac hypertrophy in dog) and modifying dosages for declining weight and mobility Assistance with declining mobility issues	4/17/2019 10:12 AM
32	In one case, we had wonderful support, in another no support or acknowledgment.	4/17/2019 8:44 AM
33	Wish my vet had told me I was doing the right thing...i knew it on a subconscious level but hated to see her go because i knew i would miss her and also knew she was suffering.	4/17/2019 8:34 AM
34	Talking with my family after to help them cope with our family pet having to give them injection to let them die and not be In anymore pain. I wish we could have been provide pain medication relief for them. It was hard to see them struggling to move & get up & outside to pee/poo. It was obvious that pet was dying. When it was closer we took them to vet. It would've been nice to have a vet come to us or out to car so that pet could have died at home in its own space.	4/17/2019 12:34 AM
35	We were questioned by the veterinarian if we were sure we really wanted to do this. We already had tremendous feelings of guilt even though we knew we were doing what was best for him.	4/16/2019 10:09 PM
36	grief. sadness over the fact that my pet trusted me and i was choosing to terminate its life. grief over inability to explain to pet why it was suffering.	4/16/2019 8:37 PM
37	Deciding when it was time to help one, in particular, pass on.	4/16/2019 5:53 PM
38	Being overseas and navigating expenses of bringing remains back	4/16/2019 4:19 PM
39	My wife and I were devastated when we had to euthanize our dog, Marty. In addition to being upset ourselves, we had trouble talking to our three year old son about Marty's death.	4/16/2019 4:06 PM
40	money	4/16/2019 10:39 AM
41	They came to my house and our dog was able to die at home surrounded by love	4/16/2019 9:50 AM
42	difficult decision making (ie prolonging life for me? for pet?) financial strain	4/16/2019 9:05 AM
43	saying goodbye	4/16/2019 8:30 AM
44	Giving Shadoe subcutaneous fluids at home.	4/16/2019 8:10 AM
45	burial and cremation	4/16/2019 7:56 AM
46	Needing assurance that we were making the right decision when faced with putting an animal down. The worst part was that one place would not allow us to be with our pet when they put her to sleep or see her afterwards.	4/16/2019 7:55 AM

## Q5 Comments and/or stories

Answered: 69 Skipped: 68

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The staff I encountered were very supportive. They followed up with me as well.	6/20/2019 2:01 PM
2	They explained exactly what they would do and we were allowed to be there to the end if we chose to do so. They provided a plaster cast footprint of our dog to take home.	6/3/2019 7:40 PM
3	My vet is the best. They make clay paw prints and put them in a velvet bag for a keepsake. Also assist with referral to cremation services.	5/17/2019 8:01 AM
4	I love when they made a plaster impression of my dogs paw! That was very special and really helped my daughter find some closure and keep his memory alive!	5/4/2019 6:36 PM
5	N/A	4/29/2019 9:24 PM
6	people are often loss with words but feel a need to say something and end up saying something stupid.	4/27/2019 6:49 AM
7	My veterinarian was awesome - allowed us to be with our dog as she went to sleep. I am getting prepared mentally to also have to do this with our sweet kitty - breaks my heart.	4/26/2019 12:33 PM
8	They had me go up front to pay my bill while they took my dog in the back. I could hear him crying while I was paying (which seemed to take forever). They brought him back to me when he was sedated. I felt like he must have felt abandoned by me. Overall it was a horrible experience.	4/22/2019 10:42 AM
9	Our veterinarian offered as much time as we needed and we were with our cat as she died. They followed up with a card in the mail a couple of months later and a year later which helped to have that recognition that Whiskers was important to us.	4/20/2019 6:13 AM
10	Sidney was our first dog and belonged to my parents. He came to when my parents could no longer care for him. He developed cancer at the age of 12, diagnosed in May and we said goodbye in July. I wish we had a detailed discussion about palliative care and what to expect when we took him in. I didn't know how quick it would be. We did get great impressions of his feet and are able to have him cremated. We had a great last few days and treated him with all the love, gave him his favorite foods,played as much as he could.	4/19/2019 8:31 PM
11	In March of 2019, my 11 year old car was diagnosed with cancer. After many local ver visits and then a specialty vet group I made the choice to have a vet come to my home. It was the most comforting experience for my cat and me I will only ever have my animals euthanized at home. The veterinarian with me was extremely compassionate and allowed me to make the decisions.	4/19/2019 3:06 PM
12	I think if vets should communicate more honestly when they think an animal should be euthanized. We changed vets to one that does. Previously we had one that charged thousands of dollars stating our animal would recover when they knew the prognosis was poor.	4/19/2019 1:07 PM
13	I worked as a licensed veterinary technician for 11 years before I became a neonatal RN. I have done a great deal of Bereavement education for my unit. My unique experiences would be an asset and I would love to help with this project.	4/19/2019 10:19 AM
14	Our pets are definitely part of our family.	4/19/2019 7:31 AM
15	See above. I know my sister is very attached to her pets. She has had 3 cats die and has had them all cremated and placed in urns. I don't know if my vet offers this service. I would hope they would let you be present if you were putting an animal down but I'm not sure about that either. I would think that this would definitely be a service they could provide. We all seem to become attached to our pets.	4/18/2019 9:20 PM
16	I think this is a great idea!	4/18/2019 3:38 PM
17	Our vet was incredibly supportive, kind and compassionate at our pet's end of life.	4/17/2019 1:30 PM

18	My 16 1/2 yr old dog, Abby, developed cardiac hypertrophy when she was 14. MOST of the veterinarians were helpful with her meds and dosing changes. ONE was not, so I just avoided seeing her. Abby was able to be at home with us when she passed. She was comfortable, peaceful. The Vet office sent a sympathy card; friends and family were supportive.	4/17/2019 10:12 AM
19	The instance of no support was over 35 years ago and haunts me to this day.	4/17/2019 8:44 AM
20	The day after Jazzy passed i began having chest pains...off and on for one month...went to emerge (finally)...spent a day there being tested...gift...doctor told me i had a strong heart...she felt I was feeling this way because i grieved the loss of my sweet Jazzy...once i came to terms with what she said, the pains went away...i still cry but i know i did the right thing having her put to sleep.	4/17/2019 8:34 AM
21	I have been blessed with several faithful Labrador dogs through out my life & all but one I was able to be with & hold & cuddle during the process of the injection of having to have my dogs die. Only one of my dogs died at home in my arms. We were getting ready to take him to vet but he died at home. His was due to complications from a prior injury that he had. (Fetched a stick & got necessary surgery for removal of it from his throat), he lived a year from his accident. My 19 year old Cat also was given an injection & I held him. I held each of the family pets. I had them everyday for years to comfort me when I woke up, protect me & my kids. I did not want them to die alone or with a vet person they rarely seen. I had was my ex husband dog & had when our kids were littles. He slept under there bedroom window every night. Buck for (10yrs), Blondie (10yrs), was my brother dog-he moves out of state so I kept Blondie. I then found our family dog Shelby since she was 3days old & we had her for (13years), my ex husband got a friends Labrador name Cash (he was a young dog unfortunately we had him for 5years). These are all of the previous faithful family friends. It was always great that our family had a male & female dog companion. My cat was mine that I bought as a teenager at 16 years old. When the mall sold him to me for 25.00 & had him 19 years. Seen me through my my teenage years, my parents deaths, my children being born & he was great he used to follow the kids to the neighbors house & sit outside and wait for them. Halloween he treat or treated with us around the block. Great cat.	4/17/2019 12:34 AM
22	We had a rescue dog who around age 12 - 13 began biting us. He had bitten visitors (nips, once drawing blood from an elderly gentleman with thin skin). We had to keep him away from visitors and children after that. He also had separation anxiety and we were never able to crate-train him. He developed "old-dog vestibular disease" along the way and took a few falls down the stairs early in that diagnosis. We got along alright for a couple of years, but when he started biting us, we just couldn't handle it anymore. We'd had him for well over 12 years...he was about 18 months when we adopted him from the local.... We'd gone to training classes the first year or so and made our best effort. We took him frequently to a local dog park, day care and usually had an in-home dog sitter when we were away. But when we didn't feel safe with him, I thought it best to put him down. My vet insisted it was a behavioral issue and would not help us...just said we needed to train him. A friend who is a dog trainer knew all we'd been through & agreed that we had gone that route to no avail. She recommended a second opinion & referred us to her vet. We had the work-up & the vet found something not quite right, but said treatment would be expensive and life-long, plus this condition would not effect his behavior. She had no qualms about our decision to put him down. My husband was not there yet, though. He wanted to re-home the dog. I said, 'Who will adopt an old dog that is biting even the people he knows well?' We got a lead on a place that took difficult dogs and tries to rehabilitate them, or keeps them til they die. We visited the place and the people were nice & animals seemed to be cared for, but the lady said our dog, because of his advanced age, would most likely live out his life in a kennel separate from other dogs, be outside on his own (and staff) 20 minutes a day in the kennel run which had no grass or dirt, just smooth rocks). I could not see an old dog who had lived in a nice house, slept in our bed, sat with my mom's in her recliner whenever possible, living in these conditions for the rest of his life. He did not deserve that. He was not trying to be difficult, something else was going on, but we couldn't figure it out. We finally agreed to let the 2nd vet help us all by putting him down. This was such a traumatic experience for me that I was not ready for another dog for 18 months. Even then I was leary of my ability to train another dog. I have never discussed the situation with my vet, whom we still use for the other animals, as he is a very good vet. When the issue is physical health and treatment options are futile, he's great. We just had this one difficult issue over the 30+ years we've taken our animals there for care.	4/16/2019 5:53 PM



23	Losing my pet was a very difficult, new experience for me. It is very difficult to know how to make the right decisions, especially when finances are involved. In the end, I feel that I did my best for my pet. But at times, the grief creeps in and has me questioning. I have also been surprised at how long the grief has lingered. I suppose I will always miss my faithful companion.	4/16/2019 9:05 AM
24	Our vet was wonderful. He came to the house because I could not get our 17 year-old cat, Shadoe into the car by myself. He understood how special Shadoe was to me. He brought her to the office, cared for her and brought her back home later in the day. He taught us how to give Shadoe fluids to help her feel better and improve her quality of life. When Shadoe died a few weeks later, he was supportive and caring. He truly understood how to be compassionate. He's not only good with our furry family members, he's good with people also.	4/16/2019 8:10 AM
25	My mom had a great experience with an organization called.... They raved about how wonderful they were. A vet came to the house, put the animal down. They could remain in their own environment. Then they also took care of removing the body from the home and disposition of the animal. They also took care of delivering the cremated remains. My personal experience was when we had to put down our cat after 16 years. We had very little money at the time and the cost was so high, we really could not afford to take her to our own vet, so we had to take her to the county animal shelter. It was horrible, they made us just sign a bunch of paperwork and hand her over. We could not stay with her, they would not let us know when it was done, and we could not see her after. We were told that we had to just leave her there. It was heartbreaking. You could tell it was just another routine day for them. I cannot tell you how upset it made my whole family. I would never do that again. Just because someone does not have a lot of money, should you not show any compassion.	4/16/2019 7:55 AM
26	My vet and staff are very compassionate about animals. Recently my 15 year old cat fractured her tibia. My vet put an external fixator on her leg to give her the best chance for recovery. She is walking with a limp but thriving. When I took her in for examination, I thought it was the end for her. Last year I lost two pets.	4/16/2019 7:04 AM
27	I think we should be careful with how much we expect from the vet. Compassionate care is important but the RTS style of collecting tokens, pictures, etc would probably be inappropriate in many cases for pets. Perhaps paw prints?	4/16/2019 12:48 AM
28	There's always room for improvement, but at the time, my experiences could not have gone any better with my vets.	4/15/2019 11:59 PM
29	for many friends, their pets are like their children. The animals give us unconditional love, unlike some children. They are healing to our hearts. For many friends, their grief is overwhelming.	4/15/2019 10:49 PM
30	Not much to share	4/15/2019 9:48 PM
31	I am just such a firm believer in this training, I think everyone could benefit.	4/15/2019 8:33 PM
32	I have to say I have had amazing staff and Vet that were very compassionate and caring and gave us memories of our beloved pet	4/15/2019 7:47 PM
33	Years ago, I had two cats. Simon was a shy, white male who was very affectionate. I left him in the care of a neighbor one Thanksgiving weekend and when I came back, I found him dehydrated and barely breathing in a corner. I immediately took him to the vet and discovered that his kidneys had shut down. He was euthanized and given back to me in a cardboard box. About a year later, Hannah, my female cat, took ill similar to Simon but over a few weeks. I was able to put her on kidney food which gave her a little more time. But, she too, got to a point where she needed to be euthanized. That time, the vet I took her to wrapped her deceased body up in a cat-sized blanket and another snug, respectful cloth container. I still had to find a place to bury her, but she had a little more dignity immediately after her death.	4/15/2019 7:32 PM
34	My daughter is preparing for a veterinary science degree. She was so excited to hear about this program and would love to participate.	4/15/2019 6:32 PM
35	I knew that I would have my elderly little dog (who had just become unstable when walking) put to sleep before we left for vacation. I did not want him to pass away in my absence because the pain would be unbearable to both of us. I loved him and he loved me. I had healing time to grieve before putting him to sleep. I was able to purposefully remember and put my mind at ease. I will see him again in the sweet mansion of the sky. The timing was perfect even though difficult. The veterinarian was very compassionate to both of us. She left us alone to cry and relive memories. So painful and sweet. It was a remarkable experience of loving and loss. And yes, as a dog owner, I would rather love and suffer the loss of my dear animal than to never experience the beautiful love this dog had for his unworthy master.	4/15/2019 3:57 PM

36	some vet techs/vets are clearly better than others in their compassion and empathy on end of life care. I was impressed when I had to put my lab down and the tech asked if I wanted paw prints and fur as a memento. It meant so much.	4/15/2019 3:44 PM
37	The doctor was very compassionate and actually better sure of her guidance then OB doctors I have encountered.	4/15/2019 3:37 PM
38	They usually make you feel bad if the animal could possibly be saved but by you spending thousands upon thousands of dollars and even then there's no guarantee. And instead they never suggest that you take them home to have them put down, they always wanted to be there in a very cold environment	4/15/2019 3:15 PM
39	My most recent loss was definitely handled much better than in years past. I appreciated my current vets attention to me, but also our sweet cat. She ensured that Baxter was comfortable and happy til the very last breath.	4/15/2019 3:05 PM
40	I recently lost a dog that was part of our family for 16 years. There is an in-home euthanasia service in Dallas and that was the best experience	4/15/2019 2:12 PM
41	Unike many others was kind caring did follow up offered momentos.	4/15/2019 1:53 PM
42	I had two very different end-of-life experiences for my cat and my dog in the past 3 months. My cat's was very intentional process, with lots of decision-making time and an opportunity for the hospice vet to come to our home to euthanize her on our own terms. Our dog had a more acute, emergent issue that required us taking her to the University emergency vet clinic, and having to make a more urgent decision about putting her down. They were more focused on performing interventions to keep her alive or "getting her through" to see if she could recover. They seemed a little inconvenienced or just awkward when we asked to spend time with our dog on a couple different occasions during the two days she was there. They were caring, but seemed a little less confident in guiding us through the dying process and offering condolences and support. Obviously, the space was very clinical and not conducive to spending tender final moments with our beloved dog (though we went ahead and made ourselves at home sprawled out on the cold linoleum floor with her). The crematory used for both of our pets was wonderful and supportive, and provides ongoing grief groups (we have not yet taken advantage of the groups).	4/15/2019 1:43 PM
43	When our first dog, Sparky, died, I experienced grief that was as deep and disorienting as the loss of a close human being and it went on for about the same length of time. In some ways it was more intense because there was not always the social acknowledgment of the loss. Working as a hospital chaplain I have learned that for some people their most significant, safe and trustworthy relationship is with their companion animal. The impact of this animal's death is significant and the grieving just as powerful as with a human. Their loss needs to be accommodated and seen in all of its depth and heartbreak. I have had good luck with Veterinarians providing care at the end of a companion animal's life. At the same time, i think the whole staff would benefit from the RTS approach, validating the significance of the loss for the humans and the impact on the staff, giving practical guidance about how to be with people -- what to say end not to say kind of things. But also, I know that veterinary staff have to work with the additional issues that arise around animals being considered property. This inevitably means that they will be asked to euthanize an animal who is not at the end of life, or witness abuse that they have limited means of stopping.	4/15/2019 1:19 PM
44	I took responsibility for taking my niece's cat, Spencer, to the vet to be euthanized. He had been treated off and on for leukemia and his failing health led to the decision to end his life. Spencer did not like the car ride and so I sang and talked to him to calm him down and to let him know how much he was loved. On the drive, he sat in the front seat looking curiously out the window. It made my heart break knowing that he would soon be gone from our lives. The staff at the veterinary office were very attentive, however emotionally I was not prepared for the number of questions and options they presented. The cost was shocking and not what had been discussed on the phone prior to making an appointment. I did leave believing that they genuinely cared for Spencer and were going to be gentle and kind. The one area that RTS could focus on is the assumption by the veterinary staff that the pet was well loved and that euthansia was a last resort. As we know with miscarriage, we cannot assume that the mother will grieve the loss. In the case of pets, a similar approach would seem to be in order. That is, listening for how the individual/family talks about the pet.	4/15/2019 12:02 P
45	considering in home euthanasia this time, but it is very costly, even at low end of service level	4/15/2019 11:53 AM
46	Vets are very compassionate, but as a bereavement counselor- I make suggestions to the family during their last moments with the loved one that they may have not thought of. Also mementos.	4/15/2019 11:35 AM

47	My experience is that the vets are much more compassionate and understanding than most physicians. I've always received a sympathy card, foot print, time to be with the pet etc.	4/15/2019 11:17 AM
48	I realize that this is probably not the place but the the vet technician would not listen to me when I was pointing out changes in my babies condition, had they been more attentive, there is that 50% chance my baby would still be alive. Anyway, if they felt my baby was in its last days they were not sensitive about accommodating my needs and used there work load as a excuse.	4/15/2019 11:17 AM
49	I do believe over all I have had the most positive experiences at a difficult time. The staff was attentive and supportive of my decisions. I have had only one negative time when one of my dogs was critically ill and a veterinary resident was accusatory of me allowing my dog to become so ill. My dog lived an additional 9 years to be 16 and she had Dggie MS. The comment was addressed with this Vet Resident and they apologized to me. She was stressed out over receiving such an ill dog. At the time of my loses my Vets and their staff offered me time alone or with someone their before and after my below furry family member needed to go to pup heaven. They gave me hugs and tissues. Took their time and spoke to me in soft, warm tones. Talked about how good a life my furry family member had. When having to make those hard decisions about what to do for End of life, they explained all options. They even offered to come to my home to perform the procedure. They were caring and supportive of what ever decision I made. They gave me info on all options - pros, cons etc. They had been caring for my furry family member from the time I had gotten them as a pup throughout old age and they showed their personal love and concern as well as the loss they were feeling too. I felt very supported. I feel many of the same principles which apply to the care and support of "human families" also play a role with our beloved non human family members.	4/15/2019 11:04 AM
50	I think you have to think of the cost as they will pass it on to the client I imagine. I don't what profit margins vets have and I am sure with the already high cost of care for some pets, that has to be considered.	4/15/2019 11:00 AM
51	My miniature Schauzer was thirteen years old and had suffered for a couple of years. As a young dog he was playful and loving but in old as he was having difficulty walking and almost blind. My wife and children pleaded with me to compassionately put him down but I just couldn't bring myself to do it. After six more months I decide to take him to the vet to have him checked and the vet was very gentle as he told me how to respect his life and to acknowledge oncoming health issues. It was beautiful and important as I held him and spoke to my friend as he breathed his last.	4/15/2019 10:33 AM
52	Maxwell was my only real "pet" ever. I was raised in a home that did not allow pets and I was 35 years old before Maxwell came to live with us. The loss was devastating, even being over 50 and understanding the role of life and death. I can't imagine what it is like for a non-adult to face the death of a dear companion..and I can imagine that a vet could play a vital role in helping assist people in the grieving process.	4/15/2019 10:14 AM
53	I worked at a vet clinic through high school and college. We really strived to provide as much comfort for our clients including a paw print and special card but training for staff would be extremely helpful. Multiple euthanasia's in one day or the euthanasia of a special patient really would take it's toll on your emotional state.	4/15/2019 10:10 AM
54	Remember, loss and grief impacts everyone involved. With tools and resources veterinarians may be able to provide better care for pets and their owners as well as for themselves.	4/15/2019 10:01 AM
55	I think it is wonderful that you are working on this! My dogs have certainly been family members, and losing them has been so difficult.	4/15/2019 9:55 AM
56	I would like to take this course just because we have always had dogs, and you know that time will come when, in compassion, you need to put them down, and having strategies in place to cope after the loss would be helpful. Each dog was so loved, so unique, and my heart still aches when I think of all the love and loyalty they taught me.	4/15/2019 9:54 AM
57	We fortunately had a very caring and knowledgeable staff at the veterinary hospital where our pet got care. Our beloved dog, Muggsie, died peacefully at home after 13 years of being an important family member. We were lucky that he was not sick for long, he had started to slow down and have signs of arthritis, not being able to take steps or bound and play anymore....helped us to keep him comfortable at home, and when he passed they let us know that they would take excellent care of our Muggsie. They recommended a cremation, and took care of all the details. They created a beautiful memory box for us with an ornamental paw print and a box with his cremains along with the poem called.... Even when we came to pick up the memorial things, they made sure that we had privacy and did not have to come through the waiting room with all the people with living pets. This was a very caring and well trained staff! I might add too, that they did not know us very well, we had just moved to this area and had only had our pet in to the Center once or twice! They treated us with such kindness and compassion.	4/15/2019 9:35 AM

58	After we lost our dog, the vet office sent a nice keep sake plaque with poem and my dogs name on it. That meant the world to me. With my second dog, it was near Christmas and we did not have the money to have the vet "help" end her suffering. My family choose not to have large Christmas meal, so we could afford the vet bill.	4/15/2019 9:33 AM
59	After Benson was diagnosed that day in the veterinary office, the vet told me he could prescribe meds for CHF, but not antiarrhythmia meds and said I could go to a animal hospital. We did bring him, but truly my concern was getting those meds so he was comfortable, which looking back it would of been nice to really talk with someone, as we do with people in palliative care, about our goals, because comfort was my main concern. About 6 weeks after being diagnosed, Benson was barely eating, I could feel his liver was swollen, and very skinny. He was still so happy when we were around him and moving around fine, but I noticed he seemed out of breath before bed at night and I hated to see him suffer. I knew it was time to bring him in. I decided I would do it on Thursday as I had the day off. On Tuesday night, he was so happy and we played in the yard with him, but that night I think it was to much and he seemed uncomfortable. On Wednesday morning his ears were bothering him and I sat and scratched his ears and he seemed happy, even went outside for awhile. When I got home from work that day, I found Benson had died on the couch while I was gone. I was so heartbroken knowing he died alone and may have suffered- he deserved so much more after all the love he gave our family than to die alone. I noticed after I had found him a few minutes later he released urine and stool, which makes me think he had just died when I arrived home and he was trying to wati for me and had tried to get up when I got home and died (he looks like he collapsed with his feet under him on the couch). It haunts me and brings me so much guilt to this day. I wish so much I could of seen that palliative care brochure to help me navigate Benson's end of life and to have some medications to keep him comfortable and not feeling short of breath. I just wanted him to be peaceful. It would of really helped me to have someone help council me about that decision to bring him in as well. I feel so guilty he did not get put to sleep comfortably with me by his side. I felt very alone during the whole illness. My Father in law also had a terrible experience when he brought his beloved dog in to be put asleep. He assumed they would give her a medication to put her to sleep before giving her the medication to stop her heart. They just gave her the medication to stop her heart and he says she got this awful panicked look in her eyes before dying and it haunts him. He feels terribly guilty her life ended that way and he didn't clarify that he wanted her to be put asleep first.	4/15/2019 9:32 AM
60	Training veterinary clinic staff in pre- and post grief counseling can help several families who never had that experience before, and also families who are "cyberophobic" (such as older couple).	4/15/2019 9:31 AM
61	I had a sweet basset hound named Sweetpea. She developed a chronic form of pancreatitis. It was painful to live with. I was offered another surgery but not the option to palliate the pain at home. As a nurse, I felt helpless to do what I thought was best for my family and my Sweetpea. I finally chose to euthanize so her pain would be resolved. I had to take her in to the vets office to watch her die. She could not walk so I had to carry her. I would much rather keep her home and provide the meds to keep her comfortable until her life ended.	4/15/2019 9:27 AM
62	If there was a way to do this so owners could be holding their pets when they died, the pet would be less frightened.	4/15/2019 9:16 AM
63	While this isn't necessarily an end of life story, it was hugely impactful. In May 2018, my 10 year old dog was hit by a car. When I contacted the vets office they instructed me to bring her in. I drove my dog there and was greeted at the door. I was brought to a room and placed my dog on the cart. They then told me I could leave. I was not given any information on what comes next, etc. While my dog ended up living and only had to have her leg amputated, this could have easily gone a different way.	4/15/2019 9:15 AM