



Guidelines COVID 19 - Home Euthanasia Visits

We are monitoring the COVID-19 situation in Buncombe carefully. While we know that this is an incredibly stressful time for everyone, we also recognize the very personal heartbreak as you face this difficult decision for your beloved pet. Our goal during this and all times is to be here to support you through your loss. We recognize that when fear and heartbreak increase in the world, so does the need for compassion and empathy. Unfortunately we are unable to help clients who are sick themselves, are in quarantine or who have been exposed in any way to patients with COVID-19. We are able to help family members who are otherwise healthy.

We will continue to provide services as long as we are able while doing everything we can to minimize risk of disease transmission to your family as well as our doctors. **At this time, this requires us to perform euthanasia services outside of your home.** This outside location may include a screened in patio, a covered porch, a barn or a garage. We realize this can be especially stressful for kitty cats, who are not used to being outside. **For kitties, we will give the sedative medicine inside your home and let your kitty fall asleep peacefully with you inside. Once your cat is sedated and comfortable we will move outside. For dogs that are unable to move outside please speak to our support staff to help guide you.** Additional precautions are outlined below and explain what 4 Paws Farewell will be doing, and what we ask of our clients, during this difficult time. While there is a period where a person may be asymptomatic for COVID-19, we are taking as many precautions as possible to keep you and our doctors safe. **We ask that if family members have a surgical mask that they wear it, or if not a bandana or scarf will**

do. We also ask that you maintain six feet from the doctor at all times. The doctor will also respect this boundary from you, to keep you and your family safe. However, it is important to note that in-home visits are not completely without risk to everyone involved.

What we are doing:

- Asking our doctors not to come to work, and consequentially your home, if they are sick or have any symptoms of being ill.
- Our team is taking extra hygiene and distancing precautions at all home visits, including, but not limited to:
 - Extra hand washing
 - Using hand sanitizer before, during, and after each home-visit
 - Refraining from shaking hands or hugging, avoiding all direct person-to-person contact
 - We may step away or outside during the time your pet is falling asleep (following the injection of the sedative)
 - Bringing minimal supplies into the home
 - Carrying disinfectant wipes in vehicles so that doctors may disinfect belongings between visits
 - Working to maintain 6 feet of distance from others as much as possible, and keep closer distance to periods of less than 10 minutes
 - Wearing gloves and a face mask
- We are obtaining verbal consent for euthanasia at the time of the appointment and will initial our consent document for you to avoid sharing pens and paper.

What we ask of you during this time:

- Let our support staff know if you or anyone in your family has been ill with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, dry cough, shortness of breath), or a known exposure to a person infected with COVID-19, so that we can help you reschedule your visit or identify potential accommodations.
- If you or anyone in your home is feeling ill, please cancel your visit and work with our support team to reschedule when it is safe to do so.
- Wash your hands immediately before and after the doctor's visit.
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet from the doctor as much as possible and minimize closer distance periods to less than 10 minutes.
- Minimize the number of people present for the visit in order to maintain distancing

- If children will be present, talk with them ahead of time about these precautions. Ask them to remember to stay distant from the doctor and not to touch her supplies or belongings.

As this situation unfolds, there may be additional recommendations handed down by the CDC or the other government agencies. We will monitor these recommendations and make changes to our plan as necessary. We promise to communicate transparently and clearly and do whatever we can to identify options and precautions to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Sending much compassion and wishing you and your family much health during this time.

Warmly

The Staff at 4 Paws Farewell
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