

# **SOUTH COUNTRY VETERINARY P.C. INC.**

Animal Hospital of Assiniboia & Borderland Veterinary Clinic

Box 2107, 424 Railway Avenue  
Assiniboia SK, S0H 0B0  
Ph: (306)642-4204  
Fax: (306)642-3209

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Box 419, 427 Railway Avenue  
Rockglen, SK, S0H 3R0  
Ph: (306)476-2222  
Fax: (306)476-2045

**The decision to euthanize your pet is a difficult one to make. Whether it be due to old age, sickness or pain we understand that it is hard to know when is the “right” time. We cannot make this choice for you but we want you to know that we are supportive of your decision. We are willing to help answer any questions that you may have as you try to make one of the most very difficult decisions.**

- **Quality of Life**
  - As you begin to wonder when is the right time to choose to say good-bye to your friend, our advice to you is to consider their quality of life. You know your pet best and you know when their quality of life has been diminished. Are they able to eat and drink? Are they able to do the things they love to do? Are you still able to control their pain? Is your animal incontinent and is keeping them clean becoming difficult? Are they having trouble breathing? These are just some of the questions you can ask yourself to help you to determine their quality of their life.
  - If you think that they no longer have a good quality of life then it may be time to start to consider helping them to peacefully pass away.
- **What Happens at Your Appointment?**
  - Once you have made your appointment and you have arrived, we will discuss any questions you may have. Your animal will be weighed and then your pet will be given an anesthetic injection in the muscle. This injection stings a little bit when injected but it is a small amount and it happens very quickly. Once that injection has been given, your animal will gently fall into an anesthetized state. This takes approximately 15 minutes and we encourage you to sit with your pet and to say your good-byes as they get sleepy. Once your pet is anesthetized and once you are ready, an IV catheter will be placed in their front leg and then the Euthanyl will be given into the catheter. Once the Euthanyl has been given into the IV catheter, it takes only a few moments for the heart to stop.
  - Although the heart has stopped beating you may notice some movements or muscle twitches in your pet’s body for a few minutes after death. It is also common for the bladder or bowels to release.
  - You are given the option to take your pet home for burial, to have them sent for a mass cremation or to have their ashes returned to you in a scatter box or in an urn. We encourage you to know what you would like done before the day of your appointment as it becomes very difficult to make that decision on the day of saying good-bye.
- **What about our kids?**
  - Often a child’s first experience with death is when they have to say good-bye to a pet. While very difficult, it does provide an opportunity to help a child cope with the inevitability of losing a loved one. Please let us assist you in any way we can to help your child, or children, say good-bye to your family friend – we can explain, allow more time, or do whatever it is that you think would help make this an inclusive time for your kids.

**This process is a sad one, and it is an experience that we never take lightly. We know that saying good-bye to your friend is a difficult time and one that is unique to you and your pet. Please let us help you make the last moments with your friend moments that will bring you peace, comfort, closure and exactly what you need to say good-bye.**

