

New help for grieving pet owners

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A nationwide network of pet cemeteries and crematoria has joined forces with a leading author to produce a comprehensive pet bereavement leaflet that will be distributed throughout the UK and Ireland.



The leaflet was written and produced for the Association of Private Pet Cemeteries & Crematoria (APPCC) by Jane Matthews, author of

Losing a Pet, to address this very serious issue and has had support from several experienced pet bereavement counsellors and the nationwide Pet Bereavement Support Service run by the Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS).

APPCC director Kevin Spurgeon said: "The feelings of grief and loss that pet owners go through after the death of their pet is often not fully appreciated. The idea of the leaflet is to help owners understand and deal with the emotions they are experiencing more. If the pet is part of a family then several people along with other pets may be affected – it may even be the first experience of death for some."

Studies have shown that as many as one in four pet owners take time off of work after the death of

their pet with nearly half of all those surveyed having taken annual leave after their loss. Pet crematoriums have also noticed an upturn in the numbers of people taking a hands-on approach by choosing to arrange an individual cremation for their pet directly with the crematorium.

The leaflet covers subjects such as:

- the act of having your pet euthanased
- understanding the range of emotions you will experience after the death of your pet
- ways of coping with grief
- children and pet bereavement
- information on pet cemeteries & crematoria
- ways other family pets can be affected by the death of a pet
- organisations offering support

The reception of the leaflet has been so positive that a follow up leaflet dealing with the difficult subject of Pet Euthanasia is already being planned.

The APPCC plans to distribute the leaflets to their members, pet bereavement counsellors and veterinary surgeries throughout the UK and believes this is a major step forward in both acknowledging pet bereavement and helping those affected by it. The leaflet will also be available to download from the main APPCC website as well as through many of the members own sites.

For further information, contact Kevin Spurgeon or Nick Ricketts on 01252 844572, email contact@appcc.org.uk or visit www.appcc.org.uk .