



## BrightHaven Considerations for Not Choosing/Choosing Euthanasia:

***PLEASE NOTE:** We at BrightHaven are not veterinarians and are therefore not qualified to give you professional veterinary advice. We have, however, been helping our animals holistically for many years, aided by numerous talented professional practitioners. Also, we have been through the dying experience with more than 600 animals and are proud to share what we've learned from our experiences along the way.*

Another very important decision to be made is whether a natural dying process in its own good time is desired and appropriate or if euthanasia is the correct course of action in your particular situation.

We've listed some important factors that may go into your decision process:

- ✦ [Pain & suffering](#)
  - Can they be managed?
- ✦ [Quality of life](#)
  - Can it be improved?
- ✦ [Will to live](#)
  - Is it strong?
- ✦ [A quality of life for dying](#)
  - What is that?
- ✦ [A natural death or euthanasia](#)
  - Which is most appropriate?
  - Is a final decision required now?



*Anubis*

Let's think carefully about what kind of care will be needed if we do not choose euthanasia at this time.

- ✦ What kind of care will be involved? What might we need help with?
  - Understand what daily life will be like
    - ❖ Depending on your animal's physical condition, you may want your vet to sign an Animal Hospice Care Certificate. Please visit <https://www.brighthaven.org/animal-hospice-care-certificate/> to learn more.
- ✦ Given my/our living arrangements, work schedules and financial situation is it viable to support hospice care and possibly a natural death at home?
- ✦ Can we cope on our own at home or will we need help?
- ✦ If so can that be arranged and/or is it financially feasible?

- ✦ Do we have supportive friends, family or neighbors to help with errands or respite care? It's important to surround yourself with supportive people.
- ✦ Can our veterinarian offer support if needed and is s/he available 24/7?
- ✦ Will our vet offer a comfort kit comprising all sorts of requisites for us to have on hand should the need arise, and does it contain a strong, fast acting pain medicine that does not require swallowing?
- ✦ A comfort kit might contain items such as: current medications, current, likely and strong pain meds, various sized syringes, homeopathic remedies, wound care or dressing items, eye drops, rescue remedy, a couple of jars baby food, sponge applicators to dampen mouth and more....
- ✦ What about around the clock care - is it required at this time and if so, can we manage that?

Now let's look at the other side of the coin and think carefully about what will be needed if we choose euthanasia now.

On occasion, that service will be carried out at the vet's office right after diagnosis given the severity of the animal's condition, although we advocate for guardians to take the animal home if possible and then make an appointment to have a veterinarian come to the house to perform the procedure, so that the animal is in familiar surroundings.

Here are some considerations and questions:

- ✦ You should have the procedure fully explained to you so there will be no surprises or questions left unanswered.
- ✦ Do ask where euthanasia will be performed and if you may hold your loved one during the procedure.
- ✦ Ask if a sedative will be given before the lethal dose.
- ✦ Be sure to request time alone in preparation to say goodbye.
- ✦ It's best to deal with required paperwork and payment before the procedure so you don't have to be bothered with it afterwards, allowing you to take the time you need for your loved one and for you.



*Diana*

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## Book a Consultation

Have questions about how BrightHaven's holistic healing or animal hospice care approaches can help your animal? Wish to discuss end-of-life options with someone both experienced and compassionate? Book a consultation with President and Founder Gail Pope by sending an email to [consultations@brighthaven.org](mailto:consultations@brighthaven.org).

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## About BrightHaven

Founded in 1990 by Gail and Richard Pope, BrightHaven is a renowned animal rescue, hospice and holistic education center. Our primary focus: senior, disabled and chronically ill animals, a vulnerable population that has an overwhelming need to find love and care in our society. BrightHaven is a pioneer and leader in the ever-expanding field of animal hospice, and our experience with hospice-supported natural dying is distinct and well known. We are privileged to have provided hospice care for and shared the dying experience with over 600 animals who taught us so much. At BrightHaven, it *IS* all about living well through the last breath!