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Passing Paws

SUPPORT BEYOND THE SERVICE

Supporting
Grieving Pets





Losing a pet can be overwhelming, not just for ourselves but also for our other fur babies who remain with us. Our pets may not understand the significance of another pet passing away, however they may certainly notice their absence. Our pets are also very sensitive to our human emotions, so it's possible that they will pick up on your sadness and feel some anxiety as a result.

How to Recognise Signs of Grief in Your Pets

Here are some signs that your pet might be struggling with grief:

- Changes in appetite
- Acting withdrawn or despondent
- Whining or howling (dogs), or yowling and crying (cats)
- Changes in personality, e.g. a need for more attention
- Pacing or searching the house for the lost pet
- Hiding from or avoiding other family members
- Changes in grooming or bathroom habits, especially in cats
- Destructive behaviour such as chewing or scratching furniture
- Becoming anxious when you leave the house



How to Support Your Pets

Talk to your pets in a calm and upbeat voice as often as possible. They will be reassured that if you seem okay, then everything else must be okay too.

- Distract your pets with new activities, toys or games.
- Indulge your pet in their favourite pastimes such as a trip to the dog beach, a play date or a special treat.
- If your pet's demeanour doesn't improve over time, you should consult your vet for further advice.

It can be easy to overlook signs of depression or distress in our pets when we are coping with a devastating loss ourselves. However you may find that giving your fur babies some extra attention at this time can assist with the healing process for both of you. You may even establish a deeper bond, brought about by your shared experience of love and loss.