



Downing & Lahey  
MORTUARIES • CREMATORY



## Caring for Your Beloved Animal Companion: A Guide for Families Preplanning Funerals

Losing a loved one is an emotional and challenging time for any family. Amidst the grieving process, it is crucial to remember the faithful companions who may also be mourning the loss: the family pets. At Downing & Lahey Mortuaries and Crematory, we understand the importance of ensuring the well-being of your beloved pet during this transition period.

Here's a guide to help you navigate this aspect of your preplanning process:

### 1. Understanding the Importance of Pet Care:

Pets are often deeply bonded with their owners and can experience grief and confusion following their passing. Providing proper care for your pet is essential for their emotional and physical well-being during this difficult time.

### 2. Designating a Caregiver:

Consider designating a trusted family member, friend, or neighbor who is willing and able to care for your pet in the event of your passing. Discuss your wishes with them beforehand and ensure they are prepared to take on the responsibility.

### 3. Transition Period for Pets:

Pets may need time to adjust to the loss of their owner and their new living situation. Be patient and understanding during this transition period, and provide your pet with extra love, attention, and reassurance.

### 4. Planning Ahead:

Incorporate provisions for your pet into your overall funeral preplanning process. Consider including instructions for their care in your will or advance directives, along with any necessary funds for their ongoing care.

### 5. Communicate Your Wishes:

Make sure your family and caregivers are aware of your wishes regarding the care of your pet after your passing. Open communication can help alleviate confusion and ensure your pet receives the care and love they deserve.

### 6. Pet Adoption and Rescue Organizations:

If you are unable to find immediate care, contact local rescue organizations, such as the SPCA, humane societies, or breed-specific rescues or pet fostering services for assistance. These organizations provide loving homes for animals in need and can help ensure your pet finds a new family where they will be well-cared for.

At Downing & Lahey, we are committed to supporting families through every aspect of the funeral planning process, including caring for beloved pets. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

### Local resources:

#### Kansas Humane Society

(316) 524-9196  
kshumane.org  
3313 N Hillside St, Wichita, KS 67219

#### Wichita Animal Action League (WAAL)

316-895-9225  
waalrescue.org  
1550 N Broadway St, Wichita, KS 67214

*Locally owned and operated for five generations.*

#### East Wichita

6555 E. Central | Wichita, KS 67206  
(316) 682-4553

#### West Wichita

10515 W. Maple | Wichita, KS 67209  
(316) 773-4553