

Animal Hospice lectures
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Understanding Animal Hospice (90 minutes)

Our pets mean the world to our clients. The human-animal bond continues to grow deeper and richer every year. When faced with their pet's life-limiting illnesses, clients are asking for more supportive care and reduced early euthanasia. This lecture will discuss the philosophy of care within animal hospice, demonstrate current trends around the world, and open up dialogue on how animal hospice is similar, yet unique to human hospice. Topics like suffering, disease education, and palliative care will be explored. We will also discuss the different paths clients take to decide upon hospice-supported natural death or euthanasia.

Upon completion of this lecture, participants will be able to:

- a. Confidently describe animal hospice to a potential client
- b. Embrace palliative care and what it offers the dying patient
- c. Better understand client end-of-life goals
- d. Find resources for further learning and education

Implementing Animal Hospice Services (90 minutes)

Hospice care is rooted in physical and emotional support of our pet patient and emotional support of the caregiver(s). Laying the foundation for outstanding hospice care begins during the initial visit. This hour will breakdown the initial consultation into physical exam, discussion of the family's psychosocial needs, paperwork/forms, and setting communication parameters. Various hospice care plans and business models will be reviewed. Hospice care requires a strong team for a stable end-of-life experience so this lecture will also look at ways to build the team and help ensure good care is provided.

Upon completion of this lecture, participants will be able to:

- a. Develop custom hospice care plans
- b. Establish effective communication with clients
- c. Build team support
- d. Design hospice reports and necessary paperwork