

# Euthanasia Reimagined

The 14 Essential Components of Modern Practice

Companion Animal Euthanasia Training Academy

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The Companion Animal Euthanasia Training Academy



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International Director



Founder/Owner



The modern approach

The 14 essential components of euthanasia

Support for everyone involved

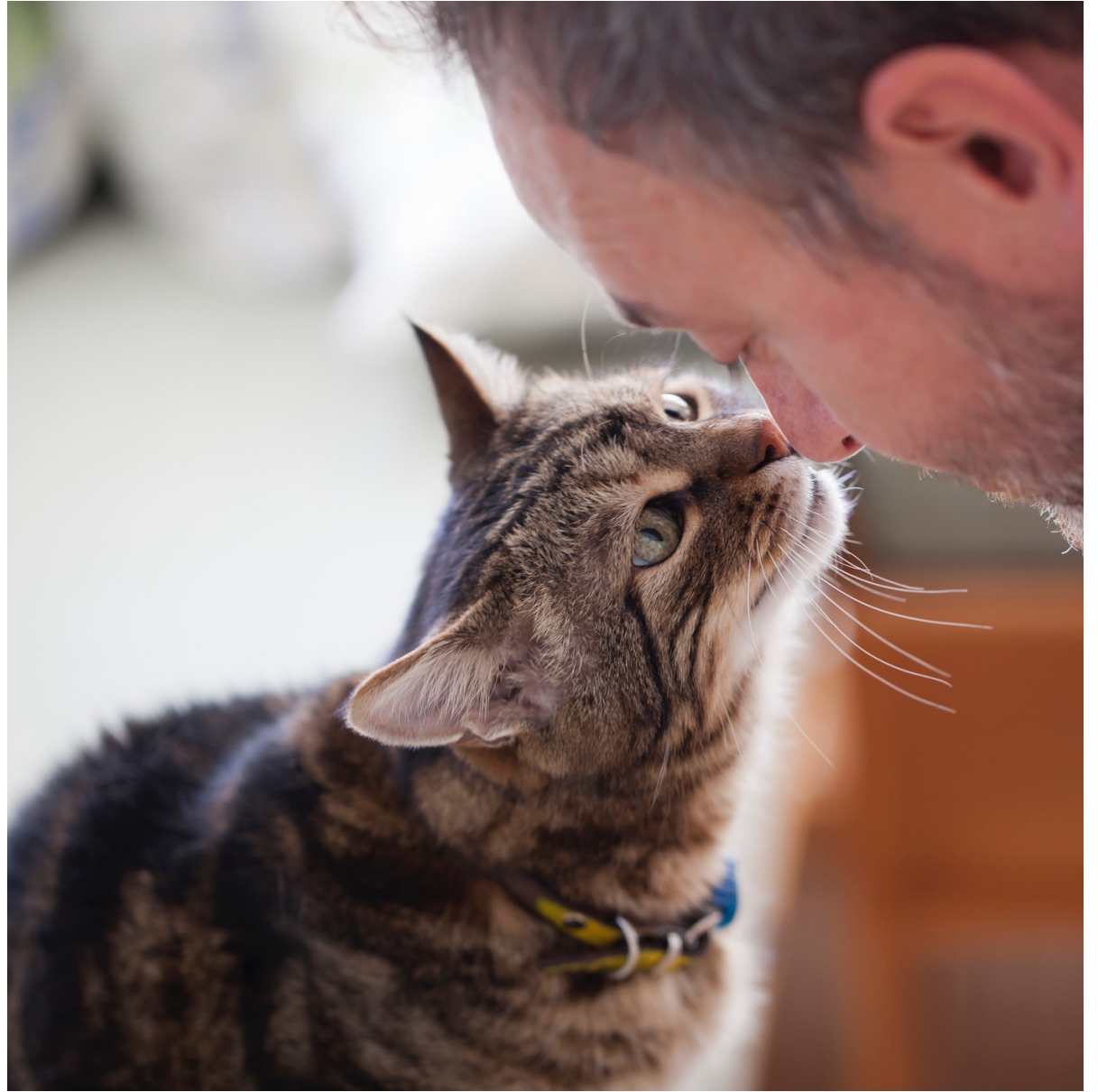
Bringing it all together



AGENDA

“Experience is a hard teacher  
because she gives the test first,  
the lesson afterward.”

Vernon Law



# My First Euthanasia as a Vet



# Euthanasia today – The modern approach



# Mistakes of the Past | Hope for the Future

Too Clinical

Rushed

No privacy

Pet looks stressed

Separated

Slow pace

Reassurance

Stay together

Option for home services

Patience and understanding





# Good Death

Pet patient sleeping

No pain on injections

Minimal restraint

Safe environment

Everyone ready

Quiet death

Quick death

# The 14 Essential Components of Euthanasia

- G** = Grief support materials provided
- O** = Outline caregiver and pet preferences
- O** = Offer privacy before and after death
- D** = Deliver proper technique
- E** = Establish rapport
- U** = Use pre-euthanasia sedation or anesthesia
- T** = Thorough, complete consent
- H** = Helpful and compassionate personnel
- A** = Adequate time
- N** = Narrate the process
- A** = Avoid pain and anxiety
- S** = Safe space to gather
- I** = Inclusion of loved ones
- A** = Assistance with body care



# The Right People

Compassionate and caring

Empathetic

Comfortable with death and dying

Professional

Technically skilled

People who would take this lecture!

The EuCrew



# The Human-Animal Bond

Allow everyone to be present

Vulnerable time

Don't separate people and pets

Maintain a calm environment

Emotional support

Benefits staff as well



Inclusion of loved ones

# Determine what's important



Location

Presence of loved ones

Special touches

Aftercare wishes

Memorialization



# Location



Peaceful

Familiar surroundings

Clients prefer home service

Comfort room at clinic

Outside

Benefits everyone

Preparation is key

# A Profound Experience



Establish preferences – pet and client

Cannot be rushed

Allow mourning

Expect the unexpected

Reduce stress for everyone

Plan accordingly

# Meeting the Family

Take deep  
breaths  
and relax

Smile and  
learn  
everyone's  
names

Take a few  
minutes to  
talk about  
the pet

Decreases risk of compassion fatigue through relaxation



Establish rapport



## Euthanasia and Disposition Request Form

Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_ Ph# \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Referral: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M F Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenting Condition: \_\_\_\_\_ SV: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am the owner or authorized agent of the owner, for the above-named animal. In being the owner/agent for this animal, I do hereby grant **ABC Hospital** full and complete authority to perform euthanasia services. Arrangements for aftercare will be based on the wishes of the owner/agent and documented below. I release the above named animal to **ABC Crematory** for:

### BODY DISPOSITION REQUEST

- I choose to retain my pet for burial. (regulations have been discussed \_\_\_\_\_)
- I choose communal cremation / aquamation (ashes will not be returned)
- I choose private cremation / aquamation (ashes will be returned)
  - Deliver to: | home hospital \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ship ashes through USPS



Complimentary Container



Wood Urn: \$25



Brass Urn: \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge ashes will only be held for 6 months (irretrievable after this time)

\_\_\_\_\_ I grant permission to leave ashes at my unattended home

- I would like a paw print keepsake

To the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided on this form is true. I do also certify that this animal has not bitten, seriously scratched, or exposed anyone to rabies within the past 10 days. I understand that my wishes will be immediately carried out upon signing this agreement. Fees for these services have been explained to me and will be collected at time of service.

Euthanasia \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Aftercare \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Misc \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Check Visa/MC/DS

Owner/Agent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor Notes \_\_\_\_\_ Tracker Entry \_\_\_\_\_



Thorough, complete consent



Assistance with body care



# Explain How Things Will Go

Describe the process FIRST

Mention only the most likely reactions

Use simple language

Explain as you go along

Work together

Patience and understanding





**Avoid pain and anxiety**

# Pre-Euthanasia Sedation and Anesthesia

The peaceful sleep

Pain-free

Closeness

One-person procedure

Technique options increase

Encourages a slower, more meaningful experience

# Oral Sedatives



Very useful in many cases

Reduces FAS (Fear, Anxiety, and Stress)

Success highly variable

Best to give well in advance

Can be fed or placed directly in mouth



Use pre-euthanasia sedation or anesthesia

# Use of Pre-Euthanasia Sedation/Anesthesia: Dogs



## **Heavy sedation** (combined in one syringe)

Dexmedetomidine (0.01 mg/kg)

\*alternative xylazine (2 mg/kg)

Butorphanol (0.2 mg/kg)

Acepromazine (0.25 mg/kg)

## **Anesthesia** (combined in one syringe)

Tiletamine/zolazepam (2.2mg/kg)

\*alternative Ketamine (2mg/kg) / Midazolam (0.2 mg/kg)

Acepromazine (0.25mg/kg)

Dexmedetomidine (0.0025mg/kg)

\*alternative xylazine (0.5mg/kg)

# Use of Pre-Euthanasia Sedation/Anesthesia: Cats



## Anesthesia (combined in one syringe)

Tiletamine/zolazepam (2.2mg/kg)

\*alternative ketamine (2mg/kg)/midazolam (0.2 mg/kg)

Butorphanol (0.2mg/kg)

Acepromazine (0.25mg/kg)

**OR**

Alfaxalone (3mg/kg)

Butorphanol (0.2mg/kg)

Acepromazine (0.25mg/kg)



# Choosing the Right Euthanasia Technique

Your comfort / skill

Your supplies

The location

Presence of pre-euthanasia sedation or anesthesia

The presence of onlookers

The type of euthanasia solution and amount available

The signalment and physical condition of the pet

The need for a postmortem exam



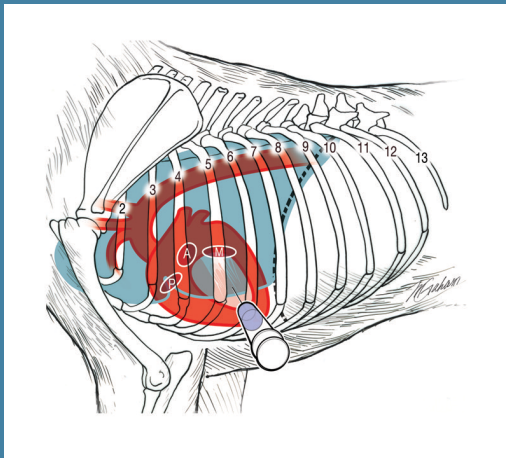
**Deliver proper technique**



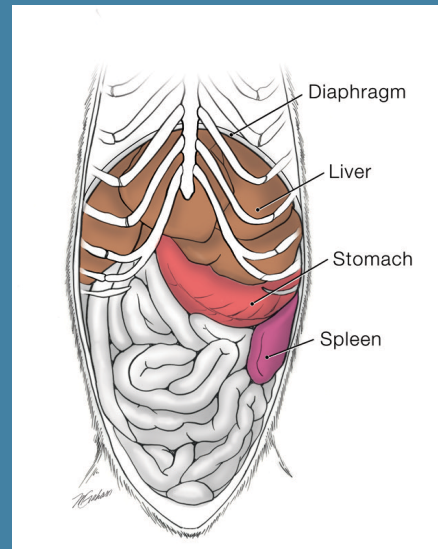
# Intraorgan Injection Technique Options

American Veterinary Medical Association Guideline Approved

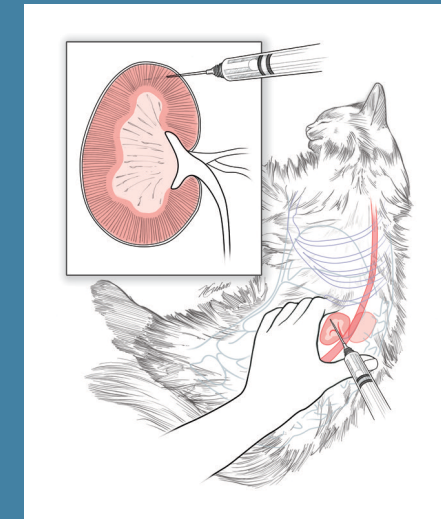
## Intracardiac



## Intrahepatic



## Intrarenal



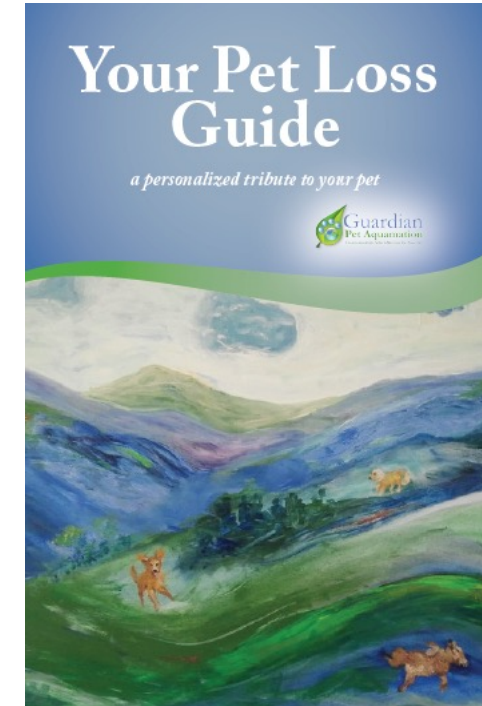
Deliver proper technique

# Aftercare

- Discuss before the appointment
- Respectful care of the body
- Look after your own body too!
- Clients may wish to help
- Describe bodily changes
- Home burial instructions
- Work together with crematory
- Clear communication is essential



Assistance with body care





# Support for the patient

- H** Helpful and compassionate personnel
- S** Safe space to gather
- A** Adequate time
- O** Outline caregiver and pet preferences
- I** Inclusion of loved ones
- A** Avoid pain and anxiety
- U** Use pre-euthanasia sedation or anesthesia
- D** Deliver proper technique



## Caregiver support

- G** Grief support materials provided
- O** Outline caregiver and pet preferences
- E** Establish rapport
- H** Helpful and compassionate personnel
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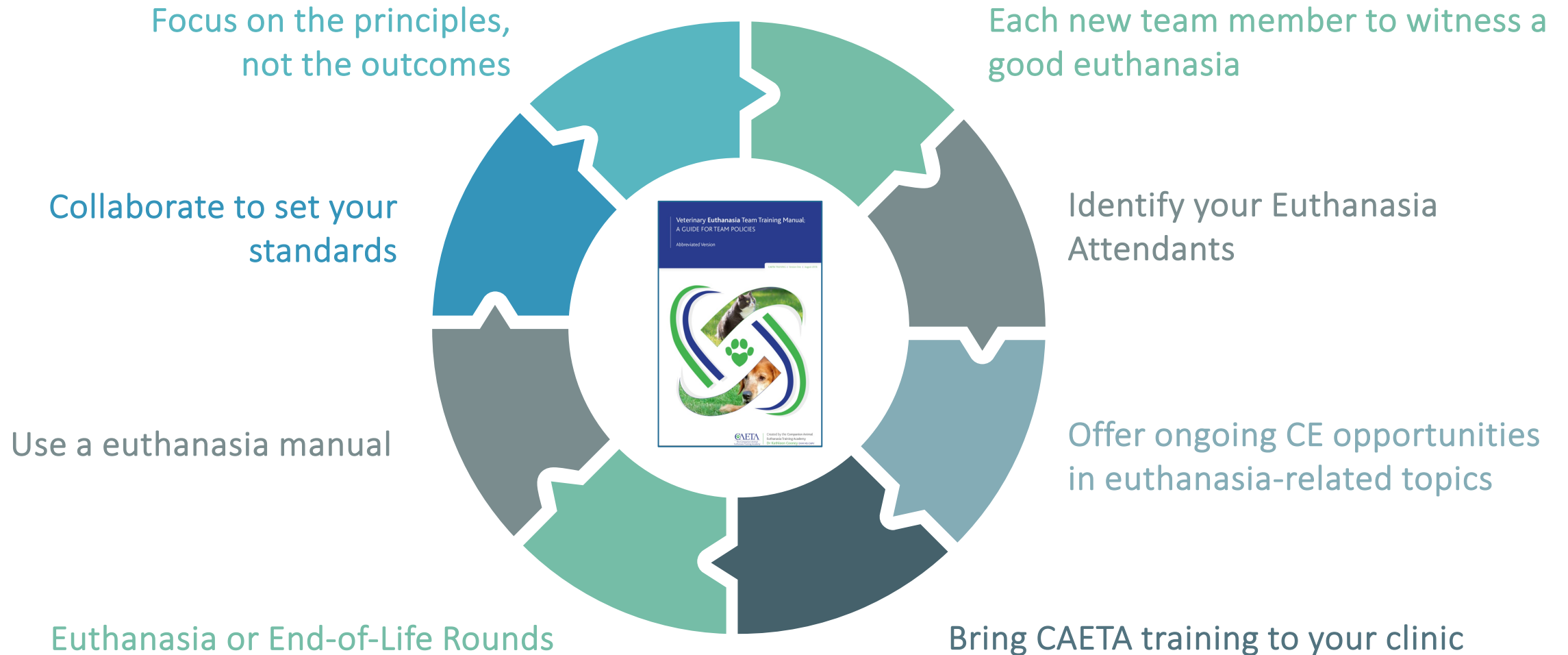
# Support for the staff



- A Adequate time
- S Safe space to gather
- T Thorough, complete consent
- I Inclusion of loved ones
- E Establish rapport
- A Avoid pain and anxiety
- D Deliver proper technique

# Bringing It All Together

AT YOUR WORKPLACE





Preplanning is key

Keep the family unit together

Provide pre-euthanasia sleep

Know your technique options

Develop better euthanasia protocols

SUMMARY



Outstanding Medicine

Good Animal Welfare

A Respected Industry

caetainternational.com/30off/

## CAETA Euthanasia Master Program

Approved for 10-hours of continuing education credit, [this course](#) is designed to provide outstanding education in companion animal euthanasia to improve the overall experience for the pet, caregiver, and the veterinary team.

Fill out the form to receive a promo code for \$30 off the course.

First name:\*

Email:\*

Clinic name:

Your current role:

- Veterinarian
- Veterinary Student
- Veterinary Technician
- Other Veterinary Professional

Submit

Last name:\*

Phone number:\*

Postal code:\*



Thank You



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