

# Choosing Your Pet's Final Resting Place



Losing a pet is never easy, and our thoughts are with you during this difficult time. When you say goodbye to your beloved pet, it's important to understand that Florida law requires that certain precautions be taken when burying deceased animals. These precautions help protect the environment and local wildlife.

## Why taking these precautions is important:

If not buried properly, deceased animals can attract wildlife, especially eagles and other birds of prey. If your pet was euthanized, the body contains chemicals that can sicken or even kill wildlife.

## Considerations when choosing the final resting place:

Your vet can discuss options for disposition.

If you opt to handle the disposition yourself, please keep the following considerations and requirements in mind:

- Cremation is the most environmentally friendly option. Some private companies offer cremation, and you have an option to keep the ashes.
- Regardless of burial location, whether your yard or pet cemetery, you must bury the body at least 2 feet deep in the ground. However, 4 to 6 feet is optimal.
- If bringing your deceased pet or animal to the landfill, upon arrival you must alert the staff that you are bringing a deceased animal. Staff will ensure burial requirements are met. The landfill operates under strict guidelines from state and federal agencies to protect wildlife. Alerting staff of deceased animals helps Solid Waste meet these guidelines and protect our community's wildlife.

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If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Environmental Protection at **407-897-4100**.

