

# Palliative care and planning for your pet

## Who will look after your pets when you can't?

### Pet care plans

Pets are beloved members of the family, so it's important to plan for their future care as part of your palliative care planning. Having a pet care plan in place can ensure your pet's wellbeing is protected and offers peace of mind, knowing they'll be cared for if you're not able to do so.

A pet care plan can be completed with your healthcare worker, or you may want to complete the pet care plan yourself.

### Short term care

It's important to have a plan in place for the short-term care of your pets in case you become unwell or require hospitalisation. Consider who could temporarily look after your pet. Options may include a trusted friend, family member, or professional pet care service. This will ensure your pet receives the attention and care they need while you're being cared for.



### Speak with friends and family

Talking to friends and family about who might be able to care for your pet after you pass away is an important step in planning for their future. Openly discussing your wishes allows you to identify someone who understands your pet's needs and is willing to take on the responsibility.

It's important to choose someone who is not only capable but also committed to giving your pet a loving new home. This conversation can help ensure that your pet will be in good hands, providing you with peace of mind.

If you would like help with having those conversations, please speak with your social worker.

## Pet insurance

If you have pet insurance, check your policy as it may include emergency boarding for your pet at a licensed boarding facility if you are hospitalised for one or more days.

## Legacy programs

Including your pet in a legacy program in your will ensures they are cared for and rehomed after your death. By leaving a donation or bequest to an organisation that offers pet legacy services, you can have peace of mind knowing that your pet will be placed in a loving home and receive ongoing care. These programs are dedicated to honouring your pet's wellbeing, providing them with the security and support they need in your absence.

**RSPCA Home Ever After Program (HEA):** <https://www.rspcansw.org.au/whatwe-do/home-ever-after/>

**Animal Welfare League Happy Hearts Program:** <https://awl.org.au/leave-a-gift-in-your-will>



### Who to contact for more information

If you would like more information on pet care plans, please contact your healthcare provider at the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District service on the number below:

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

### Help us to help others

Your experience with the Pet Care Plan can shape how we support others.

Please take a moment to scan the QR code and share your feedback.



**Need an Interpreter?** Interpreters are available if you need help to communicate with staff. The service is free and confidential. We will book an interpreter for you. Call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 to talk to someone before your appointment.

**Need an Aboriginal Health Worker?** An Aboriginal Health Worker (AHW) advocates for the needs of consumers who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. They provide support and information to help you. Tell staff you would like to speak to an AHW or if there is an AHW you would like us to contact.