

The 14 Essential Components of Companion Animal Euthanasia

Created by Dr. Kathleen Cooney, founder of the Companion Animal Euthanasia Training Academy, ©2017

- 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

This acronym holds the phrase **Good Euthanasia**. Each letter represents one of the 14 essential components of the ideal companion animal euthanasia appointment. This list is to be used as a point of reference for veterinary teams working with caregivers and their pets during this important time. Another key consideration, not included in the list of procedural components, is the emotional health of the veterinary team. All involved personnel are encouraged to practice self-care before, during, and after every appointment.

The Companion Animal Euthanasia Training Academy provides outstanding education in companion animal euthanasia to improve the overall experience for the pet, caregiver, and veterinary team.

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