

Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center

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Euthanasia: What to Expect

When You Arrive

Once you have been set up in an exam room, you will have a chance to talk to your veterinarian about your pet and the euthanasia process. Most dogs and cats are then taken to the treatment area briefly for the placement of an intravenous catheter and then brought back into the room with you. You have the option of spending as much time with your pet as you need before the veterinarian returns to the room. Sometimes a sedative is administered prior to giving pentobarbital, the euthanasia solution. The pentobarbital injection takes less than a minute to work. Your pet will fall asleep, at which point the brain will stop followed by the heart and lungs. It is peaceful and painless. The veterinarian will confirm that your pet has passed away and then they will leave you to say your final goodbyes to your loved one.

Is it painful?

No, there is nothing painful about receiving the euthanasia solution of pentobarbital. Pentobarbital has been used in humans as a sedative and anesthetic for decades.

What do I do afterwards?

After a pet has been euthanized, you may stay as long as you feel comfortable. We have a side door that leads to our outdoor lawn area next to the hospital so you do not have to exit through the waiting room.

What happens to my pet's body?

We no longer perform euthanasia services onsite at BRVC. Instead, we work closely with Bubbling Well Pet Memorial Park, a trusted local provider, to support our clients through this process.

You may make a special request for Private Cremation, in which case your pet's remains will be returned to you by mail in a sealed cedar box with their name engraved on it. If no special request is made, your pet will be part of a Communal Cremation, and the remains will not be returned.

Some clients also choose to bury their pets at home, in accordance with local regulations.