

Reading Recommendations

Making Health Care and/or End-of-Life Decisions for your Companion Animal

- *Kindred Spirit, Kindred Care: Making Health Decisions on Behalf of our Animal Companions* by Shannon Fujimoto Nakaya, DVM (2005)

Adults Coping with the Loss of a Companion Animal

- *Bill at Rainbow Bridge* by Dan Carrison (2010)
- *Good-Bye My Friend: Pet Cemeteries, Memorials, and Other Ways to Remember* by Michele Lanci-Altomare (2000)
 - Memorialization
- *Moving Beyond the Rainbow Bridge* by Julieta L. Smith (2023)
 - Workbook specifically for dog owners

For Adults to Help Children Cope With and/or Understand the Loss of a Companion Animal

- *Children and Pet Loss A Guide for Helping* by [Marty Tousley](#) (1996)
- *When Your Pet Dies* by Christine Adamec (2000)

Books to be Read by or to Children

- *I'll Always Love You* by Hans Wilhelm (1985)
- *For Every Dog An Angel* by Christine Davis (1997)
- *Something About Lucy* by Cathy Moss (2009)
 - About adopting a shelter pet
- *Tear Soup: A Recipe for Healing After Loss* by Pat Schwiebert and Chuck DeKlyen (2001)
- *When A Pet Dies* by Fred Rogers (1998)
- *When Your Pet Dies* by Diane Pomerance (2001)

Appreciation of the Human-Animal Bond

- *Guardians of Being* by Eckhart Tolle (2009)
- *Kindred Spirits* by Allen M. Schoen, DVM, MS (2001)
- *Love is the Best Medicine: What Two Dogs Taught One Veterinarian about Hope, Humility, and Everyday Miracles* by Dr. Nick Trout (2010)
- *Slim's Chance* by Cathy Moss (2006)
- *What Animals Teach Us: Love, Loyalty, Heroism, and Other Life Lessons from Our Pets* by Mary Hessler-Key (2001)

Interesting Books on Animals

- *Animals Make Us Human* by Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson (2009)

Helpful Resources

- Wolfie's Wish [Grieving Cards](#) (2023); [Card Sample](#)

Recommendations are always appreciated. Please send any books, podcasts, etc. that you have found helpful to kbaudoin@lsu.edu.

The Last Battle

*If it should be that I grow frail and weak,
And pain should keep me from my sleep,
Then will you do what must be done,
For this—the last battle—can't be won.
You will be sad, I understand.
But don't let grief then stay your hand,
For on this day, more than the rest,
Your love and friendship must stand the test.
We have had so many happy years,
You wouldn't want me to suffer so.
When the time comes, please let me go.
Take me to where my needs they'll tend,
Only, stay with me until the end.
And hold me firm and speak to me,
Until my eyes no longer see.
I know in time you will agree,
It is a kindness you do to me.
Although my tail its last has waved,
From pain and suffering I have been saved.
Don't grieve that it must be you,
Who has to decide this thing to do.
We've been so close—we two—these years,
Don't let your heart hold any tears.
-Anonymous*

*“Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry...
I am not there, I did not die.”
-Anonymous*

*“Interregnum
The span between life and death
Can be as quick and sudden
As a puff of wind
That blows out a candle.
But the candle does not suffer
After darkness comes.
It is the person
Left in the dark room
Who gropes and stumbles.
-Helen Duke Fike*