

Professional Support Offers Comfort Through the Loss of a Pet
Veterinary social workers are rare, but experts are working to expand pet grief services

The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

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Package Length: 1:59	Content provided by: The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	THE LOSS OF A PET IS HEARTBREAKING, BUT A FEW VETERINARY HOSPITALS ARE WORKING TO EASE THE BURDEN OF END-OF-LIFE CARE. COMING UP, THE PUSH FOR MORE HOSPITALS TO OFFER PROFESSIONAL HELP FOR THOSE GOING THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT PROCESS.
ANCHOR LEAD	PETS ARE A PART OF THE FAMILY, AND WHEN IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE, LOSING THEM CAN COME WITH A LOT OF GRIEF AND HEARTACHE. YET VETERINARY HOSPITALS DON'T OFTEN HAVE RESOURCES TO HELP PEOPLE THROUGH A LOSS THE WAY HUMAN HOSPITALS DO. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS ON THE WORK BEING DONE TO CHANGE THAT, AND HOW SUPPORT SERVICES CAN HELP PET OWNERS COPE AND REMEMBER THE BOND THEY SHARED WITH THEIR PET.
(PACKAGE START) ----- CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine :00 - :03	(Nats - Sound) :02
Shots of Sally looking at photos of Max	SALLY MALARET (mal-uh-RETT) AND HER THERAPY DOG MAX BRIGHTENED THE DAYS OF THOSE GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES, BUT WHEN IT WAS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO MAX, IT WAS SALLY WHO NEEDED HELP. :09
CG: Sally Malaret Grieved the loss of her dog	<i>"I was just having a hard time dealing with losing my dog, and not being really ready."</i> :06
Shot of Sally looking at scrapbook	SHE TALKED TO JOELLE NIELSEN AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER, A SOCIAL WORKER WHO'S DEDICATED TO HELPING PET OWNERS MAKE END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS AND COPE WITH THE LOSS OF THEIR ANIMALS. :10
Shots of Joelle talking to pet owner	<i>"Whether they've lost a human family or friend, or an</i>
CG: Joelle Nielsen, MSW, LSW	

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<p>Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center</p>	<p><i>animal family or friend, very often the feelings, the emotions are the same.” :10</i></p>
<p>Shots of Joelle talking to pet owner</p>	<p>NIELSEN LEADS A PROGRAM CALLED HONORING THE BOND¹, ONE OF ONLY ABOUT THIRTY IN NORTH AMERICA THAT STAFFS A FULL-TIME SOCIAL WORKER, SOMETHING NIELSON IS WORKING TO CHANGE. :09</p>
<p>Joelle Nielsen (CG'd earlier)</p>	<p><i>“I would love the standard to be that is just like in human hospitals. That in every specialty medical center, veterinary medical center, there would be at least one social worker.” :16</i></p>
<p>Shot of Joelle talking to pet owner</p>	<p>UNTIL THAT TIME, NEILSEN SAYS THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT CAN HELP YOU THROUGH THE LOSS OF A BELOVED PET.</p>
<p>Graphic: Don't Compare your Experience to Others</p>	<p>FIRST, TRY NOT TO COMPARE YOUR EXPERIENCE TO OTHERS. :07</p>
<p>Joelle Nielsen (CG'd earlier)</p>	<p><i>“Probably one of the biggest things is knowing that it is normal. And the grief process, unfortunately, does not have a standard timeline.” :04</i></p>
<p>Graphic: Find an Outlet for your Emotions</p>	<p>AND WHILE TALKING ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS MAY NOT BE FOR EVERYONE, IT'S IMPORTANT TO FIND AN OUTLET FOR YOUR EMOTIONS. :05</p>
<p>Joelle Nielsen (CG'd earlier)</p>	<p><i>“Make a scrapbook. Make a memory box. There's all kinds of memorial things that people can do.” :07</i></p>
<p>Graphic: Ask for Help</p>	<p>IF THE SADNESS DOESN'T EASE WITH TIME, DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP. :03</p>
<p>Sally Maleret (CG'd earlier)</p>	<p><i>“It's okay to grieve. It's okay to cry. It's okay to be sad.” :05</i></p>
<p>Shots of Sally and Fiona at nursing home</p>	<p>SEEKING THAT HELP IS SOMETHING THAT HELPED SALLY OPEN HER HEART TO FIONA. :03</p> <p>(Nats - Greeting woman in nursing home) :02</p> <p>WHOSE CONTINUING THE GOOD WORK SHE BEGAN WITH MAX. :02</p>
<p>Sally Maleret (CG'd earlier)</p>	<p><i>“I feel like I'm paying forward for all of my friends that supported me when I lost Max. And so it's my opportunity to give back to others and to help them.” :09</i></p>
<p>Shots of Sally and Fiona at</p>	<p>AT THE OHIO STATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY</p>

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<p>CG: Sally Malaret Grieved the loss of her dog</p>	<p>Sally says more vet hospitals should have social workers: <i>"I think it should be at more veterinary medical centers because there's so many people that have such a hard time grieving, and they feel like they have no one to talk to."</i> :13</p> <p>Sally says she now volunteers with Honoring the Bond:: <i>"I volunteer at the Memorial service every year. We set up a table for group support. I take scrapbooks to show people that you can remember your dog or cat or your horse."</i> :11</p> <p>Sally says Joelle provided support she didn't know she needed: <i>"It was obvious he was not getting better. And Dr. McCool said, 'We're going to send someone in to talk to you.' And I thought, honestly, I don't need to talk to anyone. I know I'm saying goodbye to my dog."</i> :11</p>
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References

¹*Honoring the Bond Support for Animal Owners, The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center.* Online:
<https://vet.osu.edu/vmc/companion/our-services/honoring-bond-support-animal-owners>

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