

# **Ritual for the Departure of a Pet**

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Often the death of a pet is more difficult for us than the death of a human loved one. Our pets offer us unconditional love. We open our souls to them; in return they do not judge us.

Memories of our pets are stored at a cellular level. Thus, the healing and reorientation to life without our beloved pet must occur at the cellular level.

This ritual is a way that you can help your pet along the journey to their new life. The love which you share with your pet is a powerful link which you can use to send them your gratitude, strength and affirmation of their goodness.

This ritual also allows you an opportunity to: bless the pet; say your goodbyes; let go; adjust to your new situation; and heal from the emotional sense of loss.

### **Preparing for the Ritual**

Ask yourself these questions and write down your answers:

- What is the color of healing to you?
- What is the sound of healing to you?
- What is the fragrance of healing to you?
- What is the flower of healing to you?
- What is the tactile symbol of healing to you?

You are unique. Your answers may differ from your loved ones. Do not be concerned. There is no need to compare with others. The answer to these questions will help you to prepare a proper atmosphere for the ritual.



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### **Items needed for performing the ritual**

1. Choose a ritual site which most reminds you of your pet.
2. Prepare the altar for your pet. See below to gather the items needed for the altar.
3. Gather all of the items which belong to the pet. Wash their bowls and other items as needed.  
Keep them with you near the altar during the ritual.
4. Tissues for your tears.

### **Items Needed for the Altar**

1. Choose a location for your altar.
2. A clean cloth over the altar surface.
3. A medium to large size candle in a color you consider as healing color. Place the candle in a holder or on a non-flammable surface.
4. A flower(s) symbolizing healing in a vase.
5. Incense, of a fragrance symbolizing healing, with an incense holder.
6. Three small candles (birthday candle size), in blue, red, and white.  
Place the candles in a holder so they stand up. (Sea salt is good for this.)
7. A lighter or matches.
8. Bring the instrument(s) needed to play your sound of healing to the altar during the ritual.

### **Creating an altar to honor the pet**

1. Lay out the clean cloth on the chosen altar surface.
2. Place a flower in a vase on the altar.
3. Place the larger candle of healing color in the center of the altar next to the flower.
4. Place the three small candles on the altar so that they stand upright and may be safely lit to burn down.
5. Place the incense of your chosen scent in a holder for lighting
6. Prepare to begin your chosen healing sound (chanting, playing a recording of nature sounds, or other).



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### Performing the Ritual

- ❖ Light the tall center candle on the altar as a symbol that you are beginning the ritual. Saying softly, *“I light this candle that your way may be lit.”*
- ❖ Light the incense from the candle, saying softly, *“I light this incense that we may hear each other and be healed.”*
- ❖ Begin to play the sound of healing which you have chosen.
- ❖ In the chosen ritual site, gather around you all of the items that belonged to the pet.
- ❖ Sit for a moment and quiet the mind.
- ❖ Think about the memories of the pet at that location.
- ❖ Visualize yourself holding and talking to your pet, letting them know that you have to say ‘goodbye.’ Say everything that you wish to tell them.
- ❖ Holding the feeling of being with your pet, go to the altar which you have created.
- ❖ Using the flame from the tall center candle, light the white small birthday sized candle
- ❖ Communicate psychically with your pet. Thank the pet for its unselfish love.
- ❖ Feel and see all of the goodness which your pet has brought into your life. Thank them for this.
- ❖



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- ❖ As you thank the pet, remind them of their goodness. Say in your own words: *“Remember your goodness, remember your good deeds, remember your good deeds of the past.”*
- ❖ See in your mind’s eye all of the goodness which your pet has brought into your life. Show it to them. Share your thoughts of their goodness with them.
- ❖ It is very important for the animal to hear these affirming words. It is very important for you to remind them of their unselfish love and to express all of your gratitude for their presence in your life. You may wish to speak the words softly to the pet.
- ❖ Light the red small birthday sized candle, saying, *“I light this candle that you may have the strength and courage to move on in your new life.”*
- ❖ Light the blue small birthday sized candle, saying, *“I light this candle that you will have peace and tranquility now and in your new life.”*
- ❖ Is there anything else which you need to say to your pet? Say it now.
- ❖ Turn and say ‘goodbye’ to your pet and see him or her walking away.
- ❖ Usually there is a psychic cord like a rubber band keeping you and the pet attached. Once more, remind your pet of his/her goodness and thank them for their unselfish love.
- ❖ Then, let go of this cord or allow it to snap and break, letting your pet go on its own way. Saying to the pet in your own words *“We have done what we came to do. We will meet again in the right time, the right way and the right place. Until we meet again, be happy, my beloved.”*



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- ❖ Return to the altar, extinguish the large candle, allowing the three small candles to continue to burn out.

### Closure

Either save the big candle for a future ceremony, or dispose of it symbolically, wrapping it in a silk-like material and disposing of it appropriately, however your consciousness feels is appropriate. Alternatively, cremate the big candle by putting in a fire.

### Bringing Merit to Your Pet through Gifting the Items which belonged to them. (Optional)

- ♥ Gather all of the items which belong to your pet that you have washed and had near the altar during the ritual.
- ♥ You may perform this portion of the ritual with all of the items that belonged to your pet, or with just one or two.
  - Look at each item and remember how the item was a blessing for your pet. The food bowl which housed the food that nourished your pet.
  - The water bowl which vivified their being with water.
  - The blanket or special bed which warmed and nourished their body.
  - The toy which brought them fun.
  - Or, the sweater or coat which kept them warm.
- ♥ Place each item in a gifting bag or box. As you do this, become aware of how each of these items was a blessing for your pet. Hold that feeling of gratitude as you gently touch each item.
- ♥ In a sense you are thanking the item for all that it has done to make life easier and happier for your pet. See your pet enjoying the item. Then feel you and your pet letting the item go so that it may bless another animal in the same way.



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- ♥ When you have finished gathering the items sit quietly and reflect upon where you might gift them that they will be of help to another animal. Perhaps an animal shelter might use them. Or, giving the items to Goodwill or another recycling location will enable them to be used by someone in need.
- ♥ As you give your animals items away, hold the thought that any merit which comes from others using these items go to your pet to help them in their new life.

From this time forward, each time that you remember your pet, feel the love that you share, thank them for all of the blessings that they brought into your life, and remind them of their good deeds.

Aum Shanti, shanti, shanti

May you find deep and abiding peace now in this eternal present moment.

