

To: Newsletter Editor, Western Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association
From: Kathy Samudovsky (412-224-4700), Good Grief Center for Bereavement Support
Re: Article for publication consideration in association newsletter
Date: Aug. 10, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Good Grief Center for Bereavement Support (GGC), a community-based nonprofit, has developed a Pet Loss Support Packet for use by veterinarians and other pet care professionals. It's available free of charge, upon request.

The packet offers information about GGC's pet loss support services and provides materials, in PDF format, that can be printed for client use.

GGC created the packet as a means of notifying the animal care community that it offers free support services for anyone having a hard time coping with the death (or anticipated death) of an animal companion.

The packet includes GGC fast facts, a brochure, a recent newsletter which features a cover story on pet loss, referral slips to hand out to clients, and a pet loss services flyer to post in a waiting room or near a customer service desk.

"The grief someone experiences when a pet dies can be devastating as well as isolating. Many people will grieve alone because they have no one to talk with, or are afraid that others will ridicule them because it was *just an animal*," GGC Associate Director Marilyn Chapla said. "Our staff and trained volunteers are compassionate and understand about pet loss. We serve as a nonjudgmental, healing presence to pet owners seeking support during this difficult time."

The Center supports individuals and families as they work through the grieving process by providing no-cost services that include one-to-one compassionate listening (in person or by phone), education, a lending library of grief-related materials, and referrals to community resources which deal with pet loss.

GGC, which services Western Pennsylvania and beyond, is a bereavement support center, not an animal organization. Its focus is on bereavement—regardless of whether the loss is a family member, friend, coworker or pet. It has offered pet loss support among its services for nearly 10 years.

To receive a free Pet Loss Support Packet via e-mail, contact GGC Communications Volunteer Kathy Samudovsky at kathy@goodgriefcenter.com. Those without e-mail capabilities can be mailed a packet by calling 412-224-4700.

GGC is located at 2717 Murray Ave., Pittsburgh (Squirrel Hill), PA 15217. Its mission is to be a comprehensive bereavement resource and referral center that builds a more compassionate community through grief awareness, education, support and hope; creating a safe place where all who have experienced the pain of death may come to work through loss and learn to manage grief.

The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and some Saturdays. To learn more about GGC or grief in general, visit www.goodgriefcenter.com.

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