



The Companion Animal Euthanasia Training Academy

COURSE CATALOG





OUR WHY

End of life is the most impactful time for patients and clients, yet the average veterinary college offers just 2.8 hours of education in this crucial area, and 75% of students graduate without ever having administered a life-ending medication.

CAETA aims to fill this void by providing comprehensive education in all aspects of end-of-life care, including advanced euthanasia techniques, hospice and palliative care, grief support, client communication, and aftercare.

CAETA is committed to equipping veterinary students with the technical and emotional skills necessary to succeed in their careers and build their confidence through advanced end-of-life training, which is not typically included in the veterinary curriculum.





EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

- Master Program (10 hours)
- Euthanasia Technique Workshop (3 hours)
- End of Life Communication Workshop (3 hours)
- Meaningful Client Communication During Euthanasia (1 hour)
- Euthanasia Reimagined: Modern best practices (1 hour)
- Emotionally Intelligent Euthanasia (1 hour)
- Euthanasia Without Pain; It can be done (1 hour)
- Pre-euthanasia sedation/anesthesia protocols (1 hour)
- Tips for a Technically Smooth Euthanasia (1 hour)
- Exotic Euthanasia (1 hour)
- Companion Livestock and Equine Euthanasia (1 hour)
- Behavioral and Convenience Euthanasia (1 hour)

- Euthanasia Team Support (1 hour)
- Compassion Fatigue and Finding 'EuHarmony' (1 hour)
- Handling Dysthanasia: Difficult euthanasias and what to do about them (1 hour)
- When Quality of Life Scale Aren't Enough: Counseling clients who can't let go (1 hour)
- Pet Loss Support During Euthanasia (1 hour)
- Animal Hospice 101 (1 hour)
- Home Euthanasia (1 hour)
- Euthanasia Around the World (1 hour)
- Ethical Pet Aftercare (1 hour)
- Aquamation: Emerging aftercare option for pets (1 hour)
- Honored Stories (1 hour)



Master Program (10 hours)

CAETA's flagship euthanasia program comprised of 10 Learning Modules (LM). LM1: Overview of Companion Animal Euthanasia. LM2: Caregiver and Pet Considerations. LM3: Physiology and Pharmacology. LM4: Pre-euthanasia Sedation/Anesthesia Protocols. LM5: Euthanasia Techniques. LM6: Challenging Situations. LM7: Case Review LM8-9: Euthanasia Technique Training and Supply Information. LM10: Euthanasia Team Training

Euthanasia Techniques Workshop (3 hours)

Provides euthanasia technique practice using companion animal cadavers or models. Participants review the 14 Essential Components of Companion Animal Euthanasia, then practice picking the best venous pathway and inject organs. Time is given to practice paw print making and respectfully wrapping bodies for transport. This is an opportunity to learn anatomy again and gain technique training. Being prepared for all scenarios ensures success and brings peace of mind. No detail is too big or too small.

End-of-Life Communication Workshop (3 hours)

Veterinary teams want to feel more comfortable discussing death with clients. They want to minimize the wrong words and maximize the right ones. Saying the right thing during an emotional time makes everyone feel better, and improves trust between client and staff. Effective communication before, during and after death becomes effortless with the proper training. This informative workshop is designed to turn teams into confident, skilled end-of-life communicators as we dive into the 7 habits of 'Good Death Dialogue.'

Meaningful Client Communication in Euthanasia Work (1 hr)

We all know client communication is a large part of veterinary medicine. During emotional appointments like euthanasia, quality communication is the glue that holds everything together. In this session, CAETA explores client dynamics, the importance of partnership in decision making, and those key useful phrases to increase trust and rapport. Had a situation where you didn't know how to handle it? Bring your questions and learn the solution.

Emotionally Intelligent Euthanasia (1 hr)

Emotional Intelligence is the capacity to be aware of, control, and express one's emotions judiciously and empathetically. When applying this to euthanasia procedures, it is vital for professionals to be attentive to their personal behavior, which can be difficult when focusing on ensuring the medical euthanasia procedure is properly carried out. Shifting attention to our physical and mental state during euthanasia becomes paramount and this sessions focuses on how to become more resilient in euthanasia work and find joy in serving patients.

Euthanasia Without Pain; It can be done (1 hr)

The very definition of euthanasia has pain-free as a central tenet. Pain may sometimes find its way, but doing everything to prevent it is job #1. Ask clients what's important and they'll say they want their pet pain-free in the final moments. Vets say the same. This session lays the foundation for a pain-free passing each and every time. Special focus given to dogs and cats, though subthemes will emerge for all species. Let's say 'goodbye' to pain during death.





Pre-euthanasia sedation/anesthesia protocols (1 hour)

Clients want their pets sleeping in their final moments; peaceful and pain free. In this session, we discuss how using sedatives and anesthetics help patients let the world around them go and prepare for death. The benefits are numerous, the downsides minimal. This session explores how to move beyond propofol, the most common pre-euthanasia sedation in practice today.

Tips for a Technically Smooth Euthanasia (1 hour)

Euthanasia requires far more skill than simply giving an injection. Practitioners need to determine the best approach given the patient's signalment and the team's experience. There are 5 common injection sites for use in most companion animals: IV, IC, IP, IR, IH. The goal is to reach for the best one given the situation. Our goal during this session is to review these 5 injection types, with time to review sedation protocols. Worried about those geriatric patients and poor blood pressures? Not anymore.

Euthanasia Reimagined: Modern best practices (1 hour)

Euthanasia was ready for an evolution, and much has changed in the past 10 years. Experts and practitioners alike have found ways to celebrate the bond, protect patient comfort, and elevate client pre-planning and communication. And everyone is benefitting from the advancements. In this session, we will highlight the 14 Essential Components of Companion Animal Euthanasia and answer your most pressing questions. It's time to look deeper into what clients want, what patients need, and how veterinary teams can find fulfillment in euthanasia work.

Behavioral and Convenience Euthanasia (1 hr)

Behavioral euthanasia often causes moral stress, which is a significant contributor to compassion fatigue. The goal of this session is to reduce moral stress while considering the best interests of the animal. We will discuss a quality-of-life assessment which allows one to measure the well-being of the animal, the Behavioral Euthanasia Discussion Matrix (a practical and ethical framework to guide and support), as well as best practices to implement in practice. The session concludes with information on convenience euthanasia and a ways to reduce euthanasia-related stress.

Companion Livestock and Equine Euthanasia (1 hr)

Those working with smaller companion animals are sometimes asked to help companion livestock and horses. This session seeks to address the similarities and differences. It's designed for small animal veterinary teams who wish to better understand how to euthanize companion livestock and horses. We explore pre-euthanasia sedation/anesthesia protocols and the techniques themselves, plus some important tips for body handling.

Exotic Euthanasia (1 hr)

This session focuses on species-specific euthanasia for companion exotics such as ferrets, rabbits, birds, and reptiles. The purpose is to introduce the various techniques used in these animals compared to dogs and cats, and shed light on the complexities they bring. Attention will be given to predominantly injectable techniques, with some content on physical euthanasia methods. We will review how veterinarians manage these cases respectfully and compassionately.





Compassion Fatigue and Finding "EuHarmony" (1 hour)

Compassion fatigue is a physical state of health different from burnout. It has its own set of rules and those of us providing euthanasia are susceptible to it. This session brings a unique perspective and approach to harnessing the sustained energy and passion of those that work with animals. This session will provide the tools needed to help take charge of your mental health in the right ways.

Handling Dysthania: Difficult euthanasias and what to do about them (1 hour)

We all desire euthanasia procedures to be successful, but sometimes situations arise that result in the opposite—a dysthania, or a less-than-desirable death. Defining what constitutes a good death is a complex matter. In this session, we explore the perspectives of pet owners and veterinarians to understand their respective understandings and identify what falls short of those expectations. By gaining this understanding, we can better address these challenging situations to safeguard the mental well-being of both clients and the veterinary team. Dythanasias can be distressing, but how we handle them can make all the difference.

Euthanasia Team Support (1 hr)

This session outlines euthanasia-related factors affecting the health and overall well-being of the veterinary team. We focus on standardizing protocols for efficiency and consistency, review team training procedures, and discuss use of a team training manual. Attention is given to help personnel cope with euthanasia-related stress and reduce compassion fatigue.

When Quality of Life Scale Aren't Enough: Counseling clients who can't let go (1 hour)

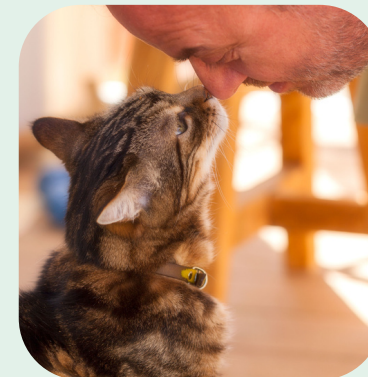
Choosing to end the life of a pet companion is a responsibility that many people are unable to bear, making it particularly challenging to navigate conversations surrounding decision-making for euthanasia. How can you handle these difficult discussions with clients by leading with compassion and empathy, while still advocating for your patients to prevent unnecessary suffering? This lecture will give you some leading questions and supportive statements to create an open and honest dialogue to allow these clients to say goodbye with grace and dignity instead of guilt and regret.

Pet Loss Support During Euthanasia (1 hr)

The human-animal bond is a beautiful part of our humanity. Sharing love and companionship with animals is paramount to our own wellbeing, meaning the loss of a pet can be overwhelming and wrought with personal struggle. In this session, attendees will explore the depth of the human-animal bond, learn new ways of supporting the bereaved client, and become more familiar with the stages of grief, including pathologic and complicated grief. We will also look at some of the latest memorialization products.

Home Euthanasia (1 hr)

Home euthanasia has a different feeling than the hospital setting. There are more variables like location, who is present, distractions, and troubleshooting without the support of the full veterinary team in the building. It requires greater flexibility, time management, and client communication skills. This session outlines the top 10 unique components to home euthanasia to help build confidence in providing it.





Euthanasia Around the World (1 hour)

Euthanasia has similar threads around the world, but in truth, most cultures approach this delicate procedure differently. While the AVMA guidelines remain the gold standard of excellence for many countries, there are those who approach end of life differently. This session provides a glimpse into what others are allowing with regards to techniques, animal handling, drug options, and client requests. Some attention will be given to zoo euthanasia protocols.

Ethical Pet Aftercare (1 hour)

Assisting with deceased pet body care has risen such that pets are treated like human loved ones. Clients are asking for more respectful care beyond what's traditionally been done. Veterinarians are also finding the more love and respect they show the deceased, the better they feel. In this session, attendees will learn how to ethically care for deceased patients, become familiar with the modern disposition options like composting and water-based cremation, and make responsible choices that will stand the test of time. Things are changing in aftercare. This session teaches how you can remain current on modern approaches.

Aquamation: Emerging aftercare option for pets (1 hour)

Some of you may know aquamation as flameless, bio, or green cremation. Its formal name is alkaline hydrolysis but most refer to the process as Aquamation. Aquamation is a gentle, unique way of reducing the body's soft tissue to its carcinogen-free skeleton, ready for ash processing. During this session, we are going to discuss this new option gaining fast popularity around the country and world.

Animal Hospice 101 (1 hr)

The end-of-life journey for a companion animal is a unique life stage requiring great skill to navigate. Animal hospice is a philosophy of care focused on the physical and emotional well being of patients and clients and includes the delivery of palliative medicine, an acceptance of death in whatever form it takes (natural death or euthanasia), bereavement support, and an understanding of aftercare options. In this session, we explore the growing trend of hospice and what it takes to provide it for patients. Emphasis will be given to finding common ground between what clients want and what patients need.

Honored Stories (1 hr)

"Honored Stories" is a collection of eight recordings that showcase actual canine and feline euthanasia appointments, providing a demonstration of CAETA's 14 essential components. These recordings offer a valuable opportunity for students to observe and reflect on complete euthanasia procedures, including unique aspects such as interactions with children, navigating family dynamics, the presence of other pets, and multi-pet euthanasia situations. Each recording was generously gifted by the family to aid students in learning gentle approaches and skillful delivery techniques.



Contact us to learn more.

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Get started on helping your students become skilled and confident veterinarians of the future by contacting CAETA today.

Our end-of-life training program offers comprehensive education to prepare them for this crucial aspect of veterinary medicine.

Robust training in end-of-life care is essential for their success, and CAETA can equip them to handle any situation with professionalism, compassion, and personal well-being.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to provide your students with valuable and necessary education. Contact us now to learn more.