

Tom's 'Top 10 Tips' to remember your pets



1.

Plant a tree or flowers:

create a small garden or plant a tree or flowers in memory of your pet. If you don't have your own garden, you could look for a nearby community garden, park, or special place where planting is allowed. You could also plant something in a pot at home if that is easier.

2.

Create a memory box:

Find things that remind you of your pet, like their favourite toys, a collar or nametag, photos or any other keepsakes you have, and put them in a special box.



3.

Create a scrapbook, journal or memory book:

Collect drawings and stories about your pet and create a special book. Be as creative as you want. You could choose to create a digital version to add photos and videos, and you could also ask your family to add their memories as well.

4.

Write a poem or story:

Write a poem or story about your pet. Write about all the times you shared, or about your life now, without them by your side. You might want to share it with family or friends.

5.

Create a memory bear, quilt or cushion:

Use your pet's blanket or bedding to make a special memory bear, quilt or cushion. You can also arrange for your pet's photo to be printed on a pillow. Whatever you choose to make, you'll be able to cuddle it. There are lots of patterns and instructions in books and on the internet.



6.

Pawprint pebbles:

Paint pebbles with your pet's footprint. It doesn't matter whether they had paws, feet or hooves, you can decorate the stones as you wish. You could give the pebbles to family and friends, or leave them in places that your pet enjoyed.



7.

Support an animal charity:

Donate pet food to a local cause or animal food bank or hold a fundraising event for an animal charity in memory of your pet. If you are old enough, you could look into volunteering for a local animal shelter or find ways to raise awareness of animal welfare. Ask a trusted adult to help you look into the options.



8.

Hold a remembrance ceremony for your pet:

It doesn't matter if your pet had hair, fur, feathers, fins or scales, you can still hold a ceremony for them. Take some time to plan a short service with your family – perhaps you can share stories about them or read a poem. You can even light a candle during the service.

9.

Your pet's ashes:

If your pet has died and they were cremated, you can use their ashes in lots of different ways. You might want to scatter the ashes at a place they loved or have small amounts added to jewellery or a special keepsake. You can even get them added to wildflower seed balls to plant.

10.

Perform an act of kindness:

You may have some of your pet's toys or other equipment that you don't want to keep. You could donate them to a local animal charity or give them away to people in your community. Put tennis balls and toys in a box outside your home and invite people to take them for free in memory of your pet.

