Autopsy Memorial Program

The loss of a companion animal or pet is a difficult time for the animal’s family members, and saying goodbye is never easy. The University of Queensland, School of Veterinary Science has a long standing tradition of receiving the donations of pets which have passed on for the teaching of pathology to undergraduate and post-graduate students. You may wish to consider donating your pet’s body to science and having an autopsy performed in order to make their legacy a meaningful and lasting contribution to veterinary education. This can be discussed with your pet’s veterinarian. At all times your pet’s remains are treated with dignity and respect.

The University of Queensland, School of Veterinary Science trains the next generation of Australian veterinarians as well as vets specialising in pathology. Performing an autopsy examination is a vital tool in veterinary medicine. Firstly, understanding how disease affects the body allows vets to better diagnose and treat ailments. As part of their training, veterinary students and trainee pathologists conduct autopsies on animals whose bodies have been donated. Secondly, unusual or rare diseases are studied at UQ to better understand them with the hope of finding future cures. Thirdly, autopsies allow veterinarians the opportunity to understand how their diagnosis and treatments were affecting the animal in their care prior to their death. This is especially important at tertiary or referral hospitals like those at UQSVS, because the animals often require experimental or cutting edge treatments. By agreeing to have an autopsy performed on your animal, you are supporting veterinary education and research.

If your wish to donate your pet’s body for autopsy please discuss this option with your veterinarian. They will contact the UQSVS pathology department and make the necessary arrangements. Remember to consider and notify your vet if you would like to use a private cremation service so this can be arranged.

Thank you for your consideration, which is greatly appreciated. UQ endeavours to produce highly-skilled, compassionate professionals, which provide the highest care for generations of animals to come. Donating your pet’s body for an autopsy examination means that through your choice they will make a lasting contribution to veterinary medicine, and the education of veterinarians and pathologists of the future.

Please contact the School of Veterinary Science Pathology Department on ph 5460 1872 or email vls@uq.edu.au for further information.