

Seven Tips for creating your pet loss ceremony:

1. Start with a personal story about your pet. Choose a story that makes others engaged and likely to remember their own stories about your pet.
2. Focus on what made your pet special. What are my keenest memories of my pet? When was my pet happiest? What was the most important thing I learned from my pet?
3. Tell a story about how you personally benefited from your pet's presence. Perhaps you remember a time when your pet just knew you needed them and suddenly they were right there beside you, doing what pets do best, letting you know you aren't alone.
4. Include a moment of silence where everyone remembers their pet.
5. Include all members of the family in the ceremony, have them all say goodbye if they want in their own way. Help children ahead of time with making something for their pet, picking a toy to place in the spirit packet, or listening to their story and helping them find a way to share in the ceremony.
6. Keep it short and simple. A typical eulogy is five to fifteen minutes long in human lifetimes. Pet lifetimes are shorter so make it however long you like.
7. End with a funny story or inviting others to share a final heart felt thought or feelings about your pet. If you have a spirit packet go together to a special place in your home and place it there until a year after your pet's death when you take it back outside to be burned or buried.