

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

*Experiences with the Death and Loss
of a Beloved Pet and Companion*



By Darlene Braden and Friends

LOSING A PET

When we lose a pet, we experience many issues of concern or trauma:

1. The physical separation.
2. How the pet died. Was it traumatic or unexpected?
3. Wondering where exactly your pet is. Are they in Heaven? Are they ok and safe?
4. The morbidity of having them buried under the ground or where their body rests.
5. Why did this happen?

You will find your mind races to and from, back and forth trying to make sense of it all.

Then you may feel:

1. Alone.
2. Like a victim of life.
3. Denial.
4. Anger.
5. Depressed.

Knowing that most pets have a very short life span, it seems that we ought to be more prepared for their death and separation. God wants us to love and love deeply. Loving a pet that is completely unconditional with their love in return is easy and so we bond so deeply that we forget to realize we only have them for a short time.

From the recent death of my dear baby, Beaumont, my 5-year-old, 5 pound Maltese, I have felt feelings I had never experienced even through the death of family members. I allowed Beau to get closer to me than any person or pet in the past and the pain is more traumatizing, yet different and specific to me and my circumstance.

In my grief and pain, I sent out an email to all of my family, friends and clients expressing my feelings and just letting them know what was happening in my life at that very moment. I was overwhelmed by the response to this simple email message. I was blown away by the love, compassion and heartfelt messages that flooded my Inbox. I cannot tell you how much these message mean to me and how they helped me get through those first days after Beau's death.

This eBook is a collection of many of these soothing messages and thoughts that I wish to share with you. They come from all over the globe and are inspirational, compassionate and full of experience and support. Some are Near Death Experiences and experiences from those on the other side.

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

If you are suffering the loss of a pet, these messages are sure to bring you comfort. Although these letters are written to me, you can easily **substitute your name for mine** and **change Beau's name to your pet's name**.

If you have a story you would like to share, please send it to me at darlene@darlenebraden.com.

With love and many thanks for all of your support,

Darlene

MY STORY

Here is the email that I sent to my family, friends and clients.

To my dear friends, family, clients and readers,

I have some of the saddest news I can think of... next to my husband or kids-family being hurt. (I am grateful that they are safe and healthy.) For those of you that come to my office in Salt Lake, you know my dear little white ball of fluff, my 5 year old, 5 lb Maltese, Beaumont. He was killed on Tuesday, Jan 2, 07, one of the most terrible days I have ever lived. Beau was part of my office décor and greeted every guest with a desire to sit on their lap and comfort them. I always said, "Beau, go to your bed..." and he immediately obeyed, scooting under my desk. He had a tiny little bed I bought from the *Build-A-Bear* store.

The reason I am sharing this news with you is in a desperate attempt to reach out for information, resources or knowledge of the life after this one. I have my spiritual beliefs that are deeply imbedded in my heart, yet for some reason, I am not comforted. My mind tells me he is in a great place but my body and heart worry that he is scared because his only comfort was when



he was with me, safe in my arms or at my side. The scriptures say little about the next life and I haven't found much information about animals. I have Betty Eadie's book and a few others to try to find solace.

If you have anything to share with me I would appreciate it. I can hardly breathe...I'm in a fog...There are many of you, if not each of you, that have experienced similar loss and I would like to compile a booklet of your experiences and learning's for others to use in time of need; death, divorce, etc. There is so much pain to experience in life,

yet... I testify of the great joy that is possible too. I just can't remember that right now.

There are great NLP techniques to help clients work through loss and I have helped many people through this process. I just can't seem to help myself. I need a therapist...Nadine; I will be calling you...

I called my friend whose husband died three weeks ago. I can't imagine that. I know many of you have experienced this; losing a spouse. I said, "Trish, how do you do it?" She said, "You just pretend." My heart is with you Trish.

Beau was at my side 100% of the time when I was at my house and office. He was ALWAYS with me and I spend most of my life at my home and office. With him gone it is not right. I know I am not taking my own advice right now and had to apologize to my little girl. It would be good if I could be a better example for her but, ya know, I just can't do it right now.

I held his dead darling body for 8 hours after he died, combing his hair and cherishing every minute. I cried forever. Yes, he is "just a dog" and I keep reminding myself how thankful that I am that it wasn't one of my kids or husband or direct family member. We need to cherish every minute with those we love.

The very hideous part of all this, is how he died...I can barely tell you...ow... well, you know my office and waiting room have quite a few doors all over the place. As Beau follows me every where, even to go in the house for lunch, potty, etc.; I always make room for him to come through the door with me. Lacey, the cocker, is many times in the pack following me around...My husband bought a new car. He came in my office and said, "Come see the car!" I was excited and followed him out. We were looking at the car for awhile when I looked up I saw that we had left the waiting room door wide open...I hate a cold office...I abruptly walked over to the darn door to slam it shut so we wouldn't waste money on the heat bill and to keep the office warm. I didn't know Beau was running next to me. He thought we were going *through* the door and I was just going up to it to slam it and return to the car outside...He was scooting by me and I slammed it on Beau. Oh my hell... can you believe it? Right on his head... he immediately went into a half-coma...we rushed him to the vet...his heart beat up until we got to the vet and then it stopped. The vet grabbed him, ran to the back room and immediately started beating on his little chest, real hard, as though he was hitting a horse. The vet shoved tubes down his throat and started blowing, doing CPR. He got a syringe and jabbed his heart full of adrenalin. He worked on him for 20 minutes as

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my husband held me...so, I freekin' killed my own dog. I was his safe haven and in the end, isn't it ironic...I didn't protect him. Wow, I am really showing my human, weak, messed-up side...sorry...That night I got on my treadmill and sprinted mile after mile just sobbing. Exercise always makes me feel better.

I would love your help as to what is next...

I am grateful that I was actually the one who shut the door on him, rather than my husband or daughter. Then I would have to comfort them and help them not feel guilty.

I saw clients today, for the first time, and I think no one knew the wiser. It helps me to assist you in your need and gives me a break from my sadness...I am sooo thankful for each of you and what you have taught me. Collectively, my group of clients, friends and readers could cure all the world's problems. If you have any books to read, appropriate scriptures about death, or could send your love my way, I will pass it on to all those that I know that have pain... the world can become a better place.

Thanks so much for listening, it helps to express.

BEAU, I LOVE YOU... I LOVE YOU BEAU.

Very sincerely,

Darlene



HOW CUTE IS THAT FACE?

I STOOD BESIDE YOUR BED LAST NIGHT

*I stood beside your bed last night, I came to have a peep.
I could see that you were crying, you found it hard to sleep
I whined to you softly as you brushed away a tear,
"It's me, I haven't left you, I'm well. I'm fine, I'm here."
I was close to you at breakfast, I watched you pour your tea,
You were thinking of the many times, your hands reached down to me.
I was with you at the shops today. Your arms were getting sore.
I longed to take your parcels; I wish I could do more.
I was with you at my grave today. You tend it with such care.
I want to reassure you, that I'm not lying there.
I walked with you towards the house, as you fumbled for your key.
I gently put my paw on you; I smiled and said, "It's me."
You looked so very tired, and sank into a chair.
I tried so hard to let you know, that I was standing there.
It's possible for me, to be so near you everyday.
To say to you with certainty, "I never went away."
You sat there very quietly, then smiled, I think you knew.
In the stillness of that evening, I was close to you.
The day is over; I smile and watch you yawning.
And say "goodnight, God bless, "I'll see you in the morning."
And when the time is right for you to cross the brief divide,
I'll rush across to greet you and we'll stand, side by side.
I have so many things to show you, there is so much for you to see.
Be patient, live your journey out, then come home to be with me."*



If You Have Lost Your Pet,
You Are Not Alone.

Please Read the Consoling
Words from Friends
Around The Globe.



THE RESPONSES

I read with tears in my eyes about your wonderful Maltese and the heartache you are going through. I had a wonderful Maltese named Mitzie who passed away 9 years ago, she was 14 and I had to put her to sleep because she had a stroke and was screaming in pain but it took me over a month to do it, and she suffered for it as I was unable to do it until my mother told me with tears that she was suffering and she had to be on sedation for the pain, and she couldn't walk or eat. I was in a deep fog for months as she was my life I cried for weeks unable to get over it, the next day after she died I saw a beautiful yellow butterfly that never left my side and to this day I think it was a sign, from my beautiful little dog that she was okay. My heart goes out to you the way your beautiful dog died but it shows how she loved you at being with you always, and the wonderful life you gave her. The accident you had with your Maltese was an accident. (It just about happened to me with my Maltese Missie when she was 2 years old I slammed the door shut hard because it jammed and I thought oh my gosh if Missie was beside me what could have happened).

I was in this fog after my dog's death, and would pour over the newspaper for Maltese dogs crying non stop, why was I looking at ads... I didn't and would not go through that pain again I would never have another dog again. I saw an ad for sale Maltese puppies only 2 months after she died, how could I get another Maltese she was my only love. Well my husband phoned the number and made an appointment to go see them, On the way home from shopping I told him I couldn't go I did not want the pain of losing another fur-child. He told me he understood but added that the lady was going to wash the Maltese puppy so she would be nice and ready. He shouldn't have said that because I thought about this little puppy that would be waiting for me who needed a loving home and I didn't show up, what would happen to her... To make a long story short we did go and I can remember that day clear as a picture. We knocked on the door the lady opened it and had the Maltese puppy in her hand and I started to cry uncontrollable thinking of my beautiful little Maltese that just died a few months ago, then the lady holding the Maltese started to cry, I looked over at my husband and he had tears in his eyes. I did take the little Maltese puppy but it was very hard on me I was so over protective and I had a few panic attacks over little things for examples I couldn't find her she was under the bed playing but I was still so emotional over my last little Maltese.

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Again I can go on and on but next to me is my baby I did get... My second Maltese. I love her so much she is 8 years old now (I named her Missie) and I don't know what I would do if I did not have her, (and I just about didn't get her) I think it was a message sent from Heaven from my other Maltese Mitzie that died, that said PLEASE GET ANOTHER MALTESE, she will be different, but another Maltese needs your loving home, please let my life in Heaven be worthwhile by opening your home to another Maltese that needs you to.

There is not a day that goes by that I don't think of my first Maltese and I still have pictures of her on the walls, I can still see her and I get tears in my eyes. My second Maltese now my everything; she is different from Mitzie she loves to sleep in bed and cuddle. My first Maltese was more independent and dominate but I also compare the same qualities, Missie will never replace Mitzie, but I have opened my heart and given a home to Missie a home she may have not had if it wasn't for Mitzie. Missie has provided me with so much love and joy I now don't know what I would do if anything happened to her now. The accident you had with your Maltese was an accident; it just about happened to me with Missie; I slammed the door shut hard because it jammed and I thought oh my gosh if Missie was beside me, so I fortunately was able to see how easy it could happen.

I hope this letter makes sense I am crying writing it thinking of my first Maltese Mitzie with my now Missie on the bay window barking, while I'm on my computer. My lesson from Mitzie is they do go to Heaven your Maltese is now playing in Heaven with Mitzie. You need to open your heart to give a home to another that needs your love. There will be sadness but joy.

You will never forget but give love to another who needs it too.

Yours Truly,

Tina, Ontario Canada



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I have been owned by at least 1 dog almost my entire life. We now currently have 2 Shiba Inu and will soon have 2 temporary additions because our female is going to be having 2 little puppies.

I can totally empathize with you and your recent loss. We all hate hearing these types of sad stories. We lost our beloved Midori from a tragic accident too 2 years ago.

Midori was mine and Bruce's first dog. She was 10 yrs old when she passed away. The vet made me feel much better about her passing. He told me the way she passed; she went very quickly and didn't suffer. If she was still alive today, she'd be suffering a long drawn out death from kidney disease.

I show my two dogs that we have now in dog shows. Our male, will be in Westminster in a few weeks. I have been active in the dog world since we got Midori in 1994. Being active in this "world" you hear lots of sad stories of people losing their favorite companion and family member.

It is said that when our furry & feathered friends pass away, there is a place they go called the Rainbow Bridge. It is supposed to be a beautiful and tranquil place. There are many trees and meadows and streams. No animal is hurt, injured or suffering. They are all happy and playing together. It is here at the Rainbow Bridge where our beloved companions wait for us to join them in the after life.

I know that my Midori girl is there waiting for me. I know she is happy there. I also know that part of her spirit is still in our house and that it won't leave until we do.

Just remember that no one can take away our memories of our beloved family members. They will live in our hearts forever. Until we meet them again at the Rainbow Bridge.

I hope this has helped you to feel a little better. Every day will get a little better. You will see.

Warmly,

Alyssa, Rockaway, NJ



OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

My heart goes out to you! I can tell that you just loved that little dog. He looks so cute! I'm glad you have Betty Eadie's book, *Embraced By the Light*. That helped me alot. I even called and spoke with her on the phone after I lost my son. My grief counselor, Jackie Sharp, helped me alot with an NLP technique where you run it backwards with your eyes. That's probably similar to the eye rainbow technique. That really helped take the emotion out of the incident. I think the thing that really helped me the most was attending the IANDS meetings (International Association of Near Death Studies). They are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, except December at the County Complex - North Bldg, 2150 South State in the County Commission Chambers at 7:00 pm [Salt Lake City]. Just ask the information booth when you first walk in. You need to sign in at the desk anyway. Those people are so nice, and will answer any questions for you. I learned so much about life through those meetings, and people came who had lost pets. Everyone feels so guilty when they lose someone. I allowed Erika to drive the car, and still have trouble with it... and feel so bad! But, I believe now that we all agreed to it. It was all of our paths.

Karen has felt our little dog, Giz, jump up on her lap since Giz passed away. She felt the warmth of his body on her lap. And, I have felt him walking on top of my bed at night, because that's where he would sleep. And, I've had several experiences with my son that passed.

I saw my son in my mind's eye walking on the shore of a river or lake kicking rocks, and it was either dawn or dusk because he was silhouetted. I knelt down to pray, closed my eyes, and there he was, and I just sat and watched him for quite a while. It only happened the one time. He shook Karen's door in the middle of the night twice real hard... trying to "wake her up". And, she did!!!!... in more ways than one! I was in the middle of painting my house, and was trying to fix some loose wires in my bathroom light switch, and the leaves in my dining room table fell over and "crashed"... got my attention! Also, Sue remembers seeing me before she was born. She has a memory of seeing me from an ariel viewpoint typing when I was a secretary at Univac in the 70's. She described my cubicle, hair, outfit, even the tile on the floor. I was blown away!

Those are the things that have helped me along my path. I hope I have shared something with you that will help ease the pain.

Love and Sympathies,

Irene, Salt Lake City, Utah



I am so sorry about your loss. I don't have any great words of wisdom but just felt that you should know that I believe someone as wonderful as you will have the chance to be with your friend again.

I believe in a loving God and that all things have a spirit that lives on.

You helped me find my way and I wanted you to know that I believe you are an amazing person. You have so much to give and I wish that this little message at least gives you the knowledge that you aren't alone.

Thank you for everything and my prayers are with you.

Best Thoughts,

A Friend



I almost didn't open your email because I did not recognize your name, but when I read it, I really felt sad & had to cry. I love animals & have a darling male cat, Misty, who will soon be ten years old. I have lost a dog and a cat, which were family pets as I was growing up at my parent's house, but they died due to old age diseases, not due to such a tragedy as you suffered.

My friend, Cathy, lost her cat about 7 weeks ago, due to illness. She decided to let her cat die at home with her - she does not believe in putting an animal to sleep. She had her Princess buried along with her dog who died years ago. The pet cemetery gave her some reading material to console her.

One was a poem about meeting with out pets once again over the rainbow bridge. I and my friends are all sure our pets go to Heaven and we will be with them once again and share a glorious eternity with them and all our loved ones.

If you would like I could ask to see the materials my friend received, and tell you about them.

In the meantime, there is a poem Cathy gave me called Live A Life That Matters that applies to all living things. The author is Michael Josephson. I believe you can read it at www.charactercounts.org.

May God Bless you always and I am deeply sorry for your loss.

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Love,
A Friend

I'm so sorry to hear about your little dog. How sad. I am so, so sorry.

I did read a book a while back that was positive about animals and the after life. It was called "Elsewhere". I don't think it is true, but it gives you some positive things to think about. It's a light, uplifting book - you might enjoy it at this time. (I borrowed it, or I would bring it to you)

Good luck with everything.

Take care
A Friend



I'm so sorry to hear of your trauma. I know that pets can become like members of the family and that your grief and pain are real.

Please remember the glorious truths of the gospel. Nothing good is ever wasted, every loss will be make up in some way, life's experiences are designed to help us ascend the ladder of mortality, and that our purpose is to have joy.

I know you'll find your way through this difficult experience.

A Friend



I am praying for you... loss is heartbreaking... when you love a little critter who loves you too it soothes your soul... God does mend broken hearts... give Him all the pieces...

Linda, South Lake, TX

My sincere sympathies, Darlene. I know how you feel because almost exactly one year ago I had to euthanize my beloved Princess Lunch Kitty when she was suddenly diagnosed with lung cancer. I found the story of the Rainbow Bridge to be a comfort to me and my husband in our loss:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow_Bridge_%28pets%29

Blessed Be,

Lori, Madison, Wisconsin



First of all I am so sorry for your loss. It is so hard. (Been there, felt that.)

I've got some help for you and would be happy to offer it to you for the cost of shipping.

I'm a certified Bach flower essence therapist, with a repertory of more than 750 essences and combinations in stock. I specialize in creating custom blended formulas for people and pets.

I've got two formulas that will help you immediately:

1. Grief and Loss.
2. ETS (Emergency Trauma Solution)

I would be happy to send you these for the \$5 shipping and handling costs, as my gift to you at this hard time. I know it will ease the pain, and help you sort your way through all of this.

Nancy

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How are you feeling? I know that you will need quite some time to get over the death of Beau. Did you manage to get the video on how the pets will be with us in Heaven by Jack Van Impe? I am praying that God gives you strength and removes the extreme guilt that you feel. Please do not condemn yourself since you did not do it deliberately. God understands and I am sure He does not hold it against you. As for Beau, I am sure he has seen your sorrow and I believe he has forgiven you. With kind regards

Eddah, Originally Kenya, now Kalamazoo, Michigan



Sorry to hear about Beaumont. I just met him that one time, but I love dogs and I can feel your pain having lost a couple of my own. I'm not sure I have any answers for you, but I've passed on your message to Bill who might have some insight. .

Basically for me, I look at the afterlife as a new rebirth (not reincarnation, but just a new birth somewhere - spirit world, Heaven, whatever someone might call it). No one has any real idea what that afterlife looks like, but my guess is that it is probably a lot like this life in terms of our relationships with each other and the types of things we do. So in that vein, I'd say your relationship with Beau is still intact and will be for eternity, in addition to many other endearing relationships to come.

Thank you and take care,

Phil, American Fork, Utah



So sorry to hear about your beloved pet Beau. My heart goes out to you. Our pets are so much a part of our lives.

May you find solace somehow.

A Friend

My Bagels was much like Beaumont, but more shades of brown and tan. Very popular, she thought she was a famous movie star with the attention she would get. We all loved her arrogance and she ran our lives. I would find myself sitting on the floor or chair so she would have more room on the couch. Our day of terror came when we ventured out one evening so "The Queen" could relieve herself. She darted over to some shrubs (she didn't like being seen when doing her thing) only to be met by a hungry Mountain Lion.

The shock, anger, guilt etc went on for months. I cannot remember the website I found and I can't seem to find it. But you could share your grief with others, writes stories, etc. I do recall that each Monday night at 7:30pm you light a candle in honor of your pet.

I too searched the scriptures and found very little. I also found that there are dog people, like us, who can relate to these things. And will offer better support, and there are people who have never had a pet anything, and if you share with them, they simply will not understand. So I would suggest not getting into detail with them. Although they will try to help, you will get some comments that are more hurtful than helpful. You and I know that each dog has an individual personality and trait just like the people they control☺ and they are indeed, family members. People without miss out. You may get comments like, "it's just a dog" "get another one" They think they're more along the lines of furniture, appliances, etc.

After several months of intense grief, I had a dream one night (you may think this is strange) but it must be the American Indian in me and the connection to the spiritual realm. Bagels came to me in dream and it was like she communicated to me that all is well, she is at peace, and I need to move on. That really helped. And I did. I am sad reliving this in this e-mail but if it will offer anything for you it is worth it.

There will never be another Bagels. Now I have Wiley, a terrier who lets every other dog know that they are not allowed within 5 miles of me or they will get it!!

Days after I was born I came home to a dog who slept under my bed. 40 years later I still got a dog under the bed (he ends up sprawled out all over it in the morning.)

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Darlene, I know dogs. I know they love us, and will do anything to please, and do not judge. I can't imagine your guilt, but know that Beau can hold no grudge against you. You didn't do this on purpose, it wasn't intentional.

Check these out: <http://www.petloss.com/> and <http://www.pet-loss.net/>

My prayers are with you

Scott



I'm so sorry to hear. I truly do know how you feel. Animals are such a blessing in our lives. And when they leave, it leaves us so empty. What I don't understand is that there are some that don't see that. I feel sad for those people, too, for they are missing out on something so incredible. You are blessed for seeing that, for sure. I'm sure you're aware of the *Rainbow Bridge*? I am a photographer and, though I do portraiture of people, pets are my favorite clients. I know I'm going to do something really great for these little guys somehow, some way, some day. Still working on that, though.

But I know Beau doesn't blame you. And I've read that animals do not fear death as most of us humans do, which I hope is the case. It must have been Beau's time to move on. And when you feel right about it, it may be time for you to share the love you've given to Beau, with another fortunate little one. This way we have the opportunity to spread the love even more.

I wish you well. Bless you and Beau!

Carolyn, Milton, WA

I was both heart-broken and devastated by your sad and traumatic news of darling little Beau's passing... I cannot even begin to imagine the grief and sorrow that you must now be feeling, given the simply awful circumstances of his untimely death.

As you may recall, Beau was the one and only dog that I've ever touched or caressed. He was just so sweet, patient and gentle with me during our various sessions together last September, when you helped me to overcome my illogical but tremendous fear of dogs. As a result, Beau will always hold a very special place in my heart and I cannot believe that I will never see him again.

However, you can definitely rest assured that Beau is in a safe, beautiful, loving and happy place now. I'm a Buddhist (albeit one with strong Christian leanings), and most people who follow the Buddhist and Hindu faiths ardently believe in the concept of reincarnation, i.e. the rebirthing of a soul for both human beings and animals alike.

You may or may not be aware, but the Indian Hindus treat all cows and monkeys with enduring love and respect, even building temples dedicated to the sacred worship and care of these animals, because they believe in the cyclical return of a soul to live another life in a new body, human or animal. Similarly, the Tibetan Buddhists have for centuries searched for their next Dalai Lama (Supreme Religious Leader) by looking for young boys whom they believe had once been a wise, loving soul and a significant, kindly and devoted lama to the Tibetan people in a previous life.

So, Darlene, if you cannot convince yourself that Beau is now in Christian animal Heaven, perhaps you should expand the horizons of your spiritual thinking and consider the very real possibility that he will be reborn once again; indeed he might even come back as a human being like you and I in his next life!

I also want you to know that I truly admire you for all your efforts in overcoming this most devastating loss. Despite the terrible pain that you are now feeling, I'm so pleased that you still have the good sense to realize how lucky you are that none of your children, husband or other direct family member was hurt. Also, instead of just wallowing in your own misery and self-pity, it's wonderful to see you reaching out for the love and support of your family, friends and clients to help you through this difficult time.

Last but not least, it's very encouraging that you have decided to channel your energy into compiling a book of experiences and learning for others in times of special need. What a bonzer idea – you just rock, girl!

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(By the way, bonzer is Aussie slang for fantastic.) This is the beautiful, sensible, courageous, thoughtful and compassionate Darlene that we all know and love... I'm certain that you will find writing this second book to be both cathartic and rewarding in so many different ways. Indeed, it may well become another best seller for you!!!

Although I'm thousands of miles away in Australia, and although I've not experienced the kind of heartache and loss that you're now going through, know that I'm thinking of you and that my thoughts will be with you throughout this period of extreme pain, grief and sorrow. Take good care until we see one another again.

Much love always,

Trang xoxoxo

P.S. It was lovely to see the photos of you and Beau together; I will cherish them always.



Oh, God help you. That is so, so sad.

Darlene, no conscious person would ever use the preface "just a..." to rationalize why you should not feel anything you are feeling.

I will pray for you nonstop for the next hour, and tomorrow as well. And the next day. Please do what you can to experience and process your grief for all the time you need.

Know that a subscriber far away feels for you.

A Friend



I just read about Beau and am feeling such pain for you - and me - I am still in pain from losing my own pet.

Neil, Briarcliff Manor, New York

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I'm so sorry to hear about your tragedy. I lost one of my little Chihuahuas, Francisco Fuego, in a similar situation. My mom hit him with her car on her very long driveway. Filled with grief and sadness, I had to figure out how to fix the terrible things I'd said in my initial grief to my mom. I called Robert McDonald immediately and he told me what to do.

So, what do I believe about life after death. I believe that our souls live on. That the energy of our lives and our beings is really star dust and it lives on too. And that we live on in the hearts and minds of the people we love. It's not the people we love that makes our lives, but loving them does. Loving our animal friends fills our hearts and lives. I also believe that when God calls us home, it's time. No matter what is going on for us at the time. Beau was called home. We are all in the heart of God now and forever. There is no way to not be there. We might not see it, but we are there. If God created everything, then God is in us. And as spiritual beings we can not die anyway. Beau needed move on and you facilitated his transition.

And I understand your pain. Feel free to call me if you want to talk

Love,

A Friend, San Francisco, California



I'm so sorry for your loss. While it's difficult to believe at this point, there is a gift in all of this. I suspect that it's twofold. One part is about forgiveness – forgiving yourself for something that you currently perceive is unforgivable. The other part is opening yourself to receive the love that all of the people in your life have for you, for your family and for Beau. Open yourself to receive. Let the energy comfort you. Know that Beau has fulfilled his life's purpose and be grateful for the time you had together.

Celebrate Beau and your relationship with him. Animals truly show us how to love unconditionally. Accept that same unconditional love from all of us.

I know that you will get through this – there's no doubt about that. You get to choose what you will focus on as you heal.

I'm sending healing energy your way.

Love,

Nancie, Durham, NC

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I am so sorry to hear that news. My heart and soul go out to you. As I am writing this I have tears in my eyes. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I will especially keep Beau in my prayers. I know you loved him so much. After I received your email I called Donna who runs a Pet Loss Support group in New Jersey. She was not home but her husband said she would be available if you need someone to talk to. She is a very nice lady so do not hesitate to call in your time of need. I also found this on the web for support of Pet loss in Utah <http://www.pet-loss.net/resources/UT.html>. If you need a shoulder to cry on give me a call. If there is anything I can do to help please let me know. Be gentle with yourself and the Little Girl inside.

I believe in my heart that Beau is up there playing with my buddy Sysko who I lost a couple years ago. Sysko was the love of my life. Below is a poem I wrote for my buddy Sysko. I am sending it to you to give you hope that you will see Beau again. Also below is a poem called Rainbow Bridge. It helped me in my time of loss in Sysko's passing. Beau and Sysko are waiting at Rainbow Bridge.

You are a wonderful person. God Bless you Darlene,

Love,

Roy, Toms River, NJ



OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

GOOD BYE SYSKO MY FRIEND

Good bye Sysko my friend
So much time together we did spend

Loved you with all my heart
My soul and spirit you are permanently a part

Separate us no one can do
Until that final day when I see you anew

I did my best to get you well
However it was time to say farewell
Your unconditional love for me I did treasure
It brought to my life so much pleasure

Meant to be together I have no doubt
I love you so much I want to shout

Up to Heaven I know you are there
Still giving me that love so rare

I love you Sysko my boy
To my life you brought so much joy

Good bye for now my buddy so dear
Until that final day when we are near

By Roy 5/13/2004

Tribute to SYSKO My Friend 3/31/96 - 5/13/04

How you doing now? I'm really sorry to hear about your loss. I can relate to what you were talking about as years ago I did lose a family pet (one of our cats) as well. Not only that I've stayed with you and your family and I do remember Beau.

It's a very tragic to lose your pet that way, but the reason I can relate is because my Cat Socks was killed in a similar way. One day I heard my Mum screaming from the drive way and yelled 'Help'. She'd just come home from grocery shopping and I came running outside along with my siblings. There I saw Socks in a pool of blood in the driveway shaking her last moments of life. She died in front of my eyes, I could barely stand to watch, and she died within seconds of coming outside to see what my Mother was yelling about. My Mum had accidentally run over Socks as she pulled in the drive way. Socks was known for jumping the fence when she heard a car come into our drive way as she'd knew someone was coming home and would open the door for her to come into the house.

Socks was very close to us, as she was one of the more disciplined cats we had. She would always come sleep on our laps and on our beds. She even came onto my bed and had her first kitten on my bed when she was in labor. I still remember that moment, she was breathing hard and then the first baby popped out. It was early in the morning and I was still in bed sleeping, but that woke me up. I had put her in my clothes box with her first kitten, and hours later we discovered she'd given birth to 5 kittens.

Knowing this accident should not have happened, I kept replaying the accident over and over in my head thinking Socks would have somehow come back to life over the next week. Obviously that didn't happen, but I so badly wanted her to come back to life. At the time we had 6 Cats. Socks and Tiger had 5 kittens. A few months earlier Sock's only Male Kitten JR was mauled by a dog. That was also tragic and took awhile to get over. I now only have 3 cats. Tiger (the father) and two kittens Mugsy and Socky (the only kitten that looked like Socks).

I guess only time healed the pain of losing our Pets! But I realize there are still 3 more to go and its just part of life. So I've basically accepted it, and just cherish all the time we have with them now while they are here. It's going to be sad when they pass, but I've gone through this 4 times already and as each one passed, the easier it became to deal with. But when Socks died in our driveway, it was hard to deal with as I witnessed her passing away.

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I thought I'd share that with you, as it would be really tough for you to deal with as it was for my Mother as she was the one who ran over Socks. But it takes time, and time will heal everything. It's once you accept that it's happened, and that there's nothing you can do to turn back time that you will start the healing process.

I hope my story has helped you in some way, but it's going to take time

Take care,

Daniel, Melbourne, Australia



When my sister died many years ago I got the book *Life After Life* and it really helped me to put things in perspective some how. I believe like you we are all going to be reunited when we die, it is true for our beloved animals as well. You must know that Beau is with you and understands it was just a horrible mistake - he knows you love him and doesn't want to see you suffer. As with people I believe when it is their time to go animals will go too.

Perhaps this incident as sad as it is will help you in the future deal with some things that are difficult for you clients and you will have a new found empathy for them. You feel as if your world is falling apart but some time in the distant (or near) future you may understand why this all had to happen to you.

You are in my prayers. Time does heal all wounds - but it never takes away the scar on your heart completely it just makes it more bearable.

A Friend, Salt Lake City, Utah



OUCH!! If you want to chat, please call me, or e-mail me for a date and time to chat. Also... if you want to see our website, there are two papers we did located at the bottom of my BIO that may be of interest to you -- www.griefrecoverycenter.org

Love,

A

Friend

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

Although I really don't know you – I feel your pain. We also have a dog that what we lose her it will be very hard. So I can understand your pain. First of all, stop blaming yourself for what happened. Accidents happen. I don't know what your belief in God is or what religion you might be. Please take comfort in the fact that there are many who believe there is an afterlife and those who pass on are in a very beautiful place where we know each other and rejoice in being able to be with each other. Someone once said, when you don't have a testimony or strong belief in something and need to – rely on my testimony and belief until yours is strong enough. Rely on mine and others belief that there is an afterlife. We don't know everything that goes on there just as we don't know our full purpose here on this life – that is one of the reasons we are here – to learn and share with others. Take your feelings to the Lord and ask him to give you comfort. The Lord has promised us that he will not give us more than we can bear. Then let yourself feel the comfort. The Lord always answers prayers – sometimes not in the way we expect or want, but He always answers and sends comfort.

I hope that you don't mind my sending you this response. May the Lord bless you and comfort you.

Respectfully,

A Friend



As I was getting ready to go out, I thought of something else that might be of help: Rescue Remedy - a combination of 5 Bach flower Essences, that work at the

Emotional level. I think it might be of help. You can go to www.bachflower.com, for

Further info. I'm sorry I couldn't get to copy and paste in a larger font.

Good bye again.

I'll be thinking of you,

A Friend

I just read your e-mail and felt I wanted to immediately connect with you.

I couldn't even read your e-mail all the way through but read enough to sense all the emotions rushing through you. I cannot tell you that I know what you're going through; I don't. I haven't gone through anything exactly like that, but I've experienced many painful losses throughout my life. Also, I have a little 7 year old dog (my first pet ever), whom I adore. So even though I don't know exactly what you're feeling, I can definitely relate to it.

I have done a lot of work around death and dying, and have been connected with people who have had near death experiences and I'm sure that I could come up with some resources that might be helpful; I'd be very happy to share some of what I've learned through all that, if you'd like me to.

I guess that right now I just want you to know that there's somebody out there who shares your sadness and your distress, and who would love to be near you to at least give you a very warm hug. Maybe I'd just be really quiet and hold you. There are times when words are hard to find, and there are times when, as someone said, "The only way out is through". Although hard to even consider as we face the challenges, and as hard as it is to face them at the time, the experiences in my own life have taught me that many times our biggest hurts somehow become our biggest gifts.

I've been training in various modalities and the ones that come to mind for right now are EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) and TAT (Tapas Acupressure Technique). There are plenty of resources on that. You could look up www.emofree.com (Gary Craig's website), www.caroltuttle.com (as a matter of fact, she's in your area), or www.celebrationhealing.com (Rebecca Marina's website - this is a very easy website to follow. If you go to the "Menu" on top of the page, there is a recorded live session on a victim of Katrina; this is something that might be helpful because of all the range of emotions experienced, and based on the theory of "borrowed benefits" you could get some relief by following the session, even if the circumstances are different. If you click on the "EFT-TAT" section also on top of the page you get a good overview of the technique along with the tapping points). If you resonate with this and would rather have a "live" person help you, please feel free to contact me. I'd do whatever I can, to the best of my abilities, to support you in these difficult time.

Another suggestion that came to mind while writing would be to contact the Integrated Energy therapy community at www.learnIET.com . It is a technique that is based on Angel energy to heal. I really love it and have a lot of respect for it. If you go to the website and click on "Need Angelic Support", you can write and a team of Master Instructors (thousands around the world) will send angelic energy to you to support you in whatever your request for support is.

Well, my friend, got to go. Please know that I care about you and will be sending energy your and Beau's way, with lots of love. I really honor your feelings, your love and devotion to someone who was (still is) such an important part of your life, and your courage and willingness to share your vulnerability (which I consider a real strength) so that people can support you, knowing that we are all one, and we all grow and heal together.

Sending you love and praying for many blessings on your journey,

A Friend

P.S. I don't mean to overwhelm you, but you were asking for resources and I'm sure that you'll get to them at your own pace. Something that has helped me tremendously when encountering difficult situations is the concept of "Radical Forgiveness". I took the certification training several years ago and has helped me and others in a very powerful way. I just copied the basic concept for you, trusting that it will be of help (I didn't even want to entertain the idea at first, but then it finally "clicked"); if you'd like to read more about it, you can go to www.radicalforgiveness.com.

RADICAL Forgiveness occurs simply as a consequence of our opening up to the possibility that everything happens for a reason, and there are no mistakes. If we could see the spiritual big picture (which we cannot), we would understand that the situation was divinely guided and happened not TO us, but FOR us. It was meant to happen that way for the highest good of all concerned. Also, that our Higher Selves actually called forth the experience for our healing and our spiritual growth.



RAINBOW BRIDGE

Just this side of Heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals that had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together...

Author Unknown



When God speaks or refers to any animal, he is telling us that all animals are CELESTIAL! We as humans are either Celestial, Terrestrial, Telestial or Sons of Perdition. All animals got to the Celestial Kingdom and dwell with God. Therefore if we do not live God's commandments we may or cannot be with a Celestial animal. However, animals can live in a Terrestrial or a Telestial Kingdom but we are assigned to a Kingdom of our own doing. So we must live so as to be able to visit our Celestial animals. Animals will have a language and we will be able to speak to them. Adam spoke to the animals in the Garden of Eden and he named them.

It is my estimation that your little doggy will be taken care of by one of your immediate family members in Heaven and he is awaiting to be with you when you leave this realm of existence. Here are some comments by Joseph Smith.

Kindness to Animals Required of Man

The following incidents occurred while Zion's Camp was on the march from Kirtland to Missouri. In pitching my tent we found three massasaugas or prairie rattlesnakes, which the brethren were about to kill, but I said, "Let them alone—don't hurt them! How will the serpent ever lose its venom, while the servants of God possess the same disposition, and continue to make war upon it? Men must become harmless before the brute creation, and when men lose their vicious dispositions and cease to destroy the animal race, the lion and the lamb can dwell together, and the sucking child can play with the serpent in safety." The brethren took the serpents carefully on sticks and carried them across the creek. I exhorted the brethren not to kill a serpent, bird, or an animal of any kind during our journey unless it became necessary in order to preserve ourselves from hunger.— (May 26, 1834.) D.H.C. 2:71. Also found in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 72.

So my friend, Darlene, rest easy as Bo is in a good place and is very happy. It will seem to him but a moment before you will be re-united and how great that joyous moment will be.

Animals are celestial because they are not capable of sinning as we are. They have no free agency as we do. All of God's animals are Celestial by nature and that's why we should show kindness toward all of God's animal kingdom.

Always, in the Gospel,

Kay, Salt Lake City, Utah

A Man and His Dog

"A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight.

When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold.

He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side.

When he was close enough, he called out, "Excuse me, where are we?"

"This is Heaven, sir," the man answered.

"Wow! Would you happen to have some water?" the man asked.

Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up." The man gestured, and the gate began to open.

"Can my friend," gesturing toward his dog, "come in, too?" the traveler asked.

"I'm sorry; sir, but we don't accept pets."

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog.

After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence.

As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

"Excuse me!" he called to the man. "Do you have any water?"

"Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in."

"How about my friend here?" the traveler gestured to the dog.

"There should be a bowl by the pump."

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveler filled the bowl and took a long drink himself, and then he gave some to the dog.

When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree.

"What do you call this place?" the traveler asked.

"This is Heaven," he answered.

"Well, that's confusing," the traveler said. "The man down the road said that was Heaven, too."

"Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's Hell."

"Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?"

"No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind."



OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I'm so so so so sorry to hear this. I can't even imagine. I think I told you about the thorn that was right in the middle of our dog's eyeball this summer and I didn't even realize it for several days - the vet almost sent us home saying nothing was wrong. I felt so terrible and neglectful not having found it right away and taken care of it earlier. But no matter how much we love them, we can't be perfect. That would be so easy to do, to injure a tiny little pet like that. You get so used to them getting out of the way and anticipating where they will go, but there are a million dangers for them every day. I've slammed my cat in the screen door before - luckily being lighter than a regular door, it didn't do any damage. But it could have been the very same situation.

As for the afterlife? The way I see it, dogs are the ultimate example of unconditional love. They give so much, forgive so easily, and love more faithfully and unconditionally than most people ever do. How can there not be a doggie Heaven for such sweet souls?

A Friend



You are very brave to share your feelings and I too have experienced watching my beloved dog get killed in front of my eyes.

Years later, I've simply realized it takes as long as it takes and helps to go through the grieving process sans NLP techniques.

After I grieved completely, I now have another dog - who is happily my dearest friend and companion every day.

Blessings to you and all will be well in its own time,

A Friend



I was watching Daystar television earlier this week (DISH Satellite) and a guest was telling of an experience he had when he died on the table and saw Heaven and guess what? He saw lots of animals including dogs!

So praise God, he'll take very good care of your little guy.

A Friend

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I'm so sorry for your loss. I lost a kitten one week after his 1st birthday and I felt like my flesh and blood child was being ripped from me.

I can only say as time goes on, you will be able to get back to normal and the love and connection you have with Beau will always be with you.

Warmly,
A Friend



One of the leading writers and speakers on death and dying.

Her book by the same name, *On Death and Dying* is incredibly insightful. <http://www.elisabethkublerross.com/pages/books.html>

Kathleen, Eugene, Oregon



I am a recent addition to your email list. I am so sorry about the loss of your precious Beau.

I lost my two Dalmatians in the last 18 months, and I mourn them both deeply. I had them with me for close to 16 years; one passing was very gentle, the second painful for me, though I think not for her.

But I am writing to share with you something that has comforted me, and brought me to tears at the same time, an image of dog afterlife: all day they chase birds or nap in the sun, and at night they sleep at the feet of their master.

I feel for your loss of that loving companion, that sweet face and expressive little body.

Thank you for sharing.

Best Wishes,

Kate, Salem, Oregon

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I'm so very sorry for your loss. The manner in which you describe his passing lets me understand that it was 'his time'. Something that strange doesn't happen for no purpose.

He did not cross over alone. No human does and no animal does. None of us is left alone.

When you make your transition, know that he'll be among many to greet you.

Don't be surprised if, after a while, you sense his presence. Often our four-legged friends also come to reassure us of their continuing love and attention. Perhaps when you think of him you can simply send your love along with the intent to see him on the other side.

Be well and experience peace.

Better & Better,

Barbara, Wauna, WA



I've only been a reader of your work for a few months now, but already I know what an amazingly strong and wonderful woman you are. You have the strength within you to help you through this terrible sadness you are feeling. It is dreadfully sad, and the loss you are feeling must be momentous. You will find the strength, you have all the skills, power, intelligence and faith at your fingertips and you have your family, friends and I imagine hundreds if not thousands of clients/colleagues/readers/admirers who are praying for you, and sending you heartfelt love. Take strength from that love.

With fond love

Helen, Cambridge, England



I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. I know, from personal experience, how truly painful and devastating that can be.

I am sending you something I wrote after the passing of my Malamute, Luka.

JUST YESTERDAY

BY KATHLEEN

“Seems like only yesterday.” How often do people say this about what goes on in life? Yesterday was actually eleven years ago when my partner Karen and I got Luka, a ten-pound, 10 week old Malamute puppy. A puppy who over the years became a key member of our family and grew to 108 pounds.

It is amazing how quickly time passes. Yes, it seems like only yesterday that the playful little puppy who we were paper training grew into a senior pet we affectionately called our “old girl”.

For anyone who has had a pet for any length of time you know the day will come when you may have to make one of the most painful decisions of your life. Such a day came for me in late March 2002. Luka had begun to slow down, but not to the degree that anything obvious was wrong. Sure, she liked to sleep longer, walk slower and required a gentler playtime. Having gone through the letting go of Lovers, our twenty year old cat a couple years before, Domie the fourteen year old Yorkie about a year and a half ago and the sudden decline of Kitters do to the depression of his buddy Domie passing on, I wasn't unfamiliar with the inevitable. What was different about this time was Karen was out of town and I would have to walk through this on my own.

With Luka it was even more sudden than with the others. For some reason she had lost her desire to eat. We tried everything. Dry food, wet food, cat food, dog food, people food; anything in order to get her to eat. When she did manage to get something down it didn't take long before it would come up. Although we didn't think it was the teeth since we had had her teeth cleaned and checked just a few months before we thought maybe it could be an abscess. After a couple days of seeing no improvement on her eating I took her to the vet.

The first indication that something was really wrong was her weight loss. With all her fur it was difficult to tell she had lost so much weight. A wonderfully compassionate technician assisted me through the process of having Luka admitted for some blood work. To have someone walk me through a very difficult time made the pain less for I instinctively knew that the blood tests would reveal that Luka was sicker than I had realized.

Within a very short period of time I got the results of the first tests back. There was an indication that Luka's kidneys were failing. However, it could have been a couple other things so I gave the go ahead to do a few more tests.

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I have come to realize one very important thing with all the dogs and cats I have loved and let go of through the years. They depend on their human guardians to make really tough decisions when it is time for them to move on.

When the next series of tests came back it was apparent that Luka was slipping fast. It was also apparent that to keep her around would have been one of the most inhumane things I could have done. She was depending on me to make the toughest decision I have ever had to make with her. It was time to let her go.

With the loving support and compassion of the staff at Central Valley Veterinary Hospital I was able to do what was best for Luka. What I recall most of all is hugging Luka and whispering in her ear how loved she is. Loved by so many who knew her. And how missed she would be but it was okay for her to go to Doggie Heaven. With a deep sign I knew Luka was out of pain. I also knew she would remain forever in my heart.

As the guardians of our cats, dogs, ferrets, hamsters, and all other furry creatures, we have been given an awesome responsibility. It includes making sure our furry friends have all they need to live a happy and healthy life. We also have the responsibility that when there is no quality of life left for them we may have to be the one to make the decision to set them free from their pain.

I think when they go to Doggie and Kitty Heaven, they get all their teeth back, they have sweet breath, and they are once again frisky and playful. They also leave little reminders around to let us know how loved we were by them.



OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I am so sorry for your loss. I had to put my 13 yr old black lab Muffy asleep in October, and I still have bad days. I found a great website that helped me alot. www.rainbowbridge.com, they have a pet loss forum and pet loss chat room and it helped me so much to talk to others who understand and don't say "it was just a dog or animal" they are members of are family.

Also, I made a memorial with Muffy's pix and her collar next to a special candle I bought for her and I light it whenever I need to. You will just have to take it minute by minute for awhile, or at least that's what helped me.

I hope this helps.

Sincerely,

A Friend, Peru, IN



I feel for you. I totally feel. I lost my MOM. It hurts... ALOT! When we lose those we love.

I cried when I read your story. It rings through. Life is soooooo precious and we never know what the next moment will bring.

Take Care of yourself.

People need you and the work you do.

And now you need the people and the work they do.

LIFE IS A CIRCLE.

Go around and around and you see what you found. People everywhere. Some good. Some not so, but those you know will pull you thru.

A Friend

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

Darlene I am so sorry. I had to increase the size of the font to read your email cause I couldn't find my reading glasses. Only less than an hour ago I let my daughter and two friends out through our front door - she is on a sleepover tonight and she screamed at me to shut the door in case the dog ran out. Just like you I have a little dog who is my shadow - my husband has a habit of banging the door in her face - I am aware of that - I cannot take away your pain - only time can heal that - fill your mind with positive memories - and know that there is only a thin veil between you and her.

I read a book recently and unfortunately I cannot remember what it was but it again was to do with someone's grief of losing their pet - and when they finally came to terms with the loss and grieved all they could they had a sense that their pet was reassuring them all was well and not only that - they received a newer version of the lost pet on the anniversary of their pet's death - to me that is reassurance that the love lives on and that there are plenty more pets needing your love and needing to love you - I know you can never replace the pet you lose but you can replace the loss with love - I grieved my parents for almost 20 years which is painful and depressing - I refuse to do grief this year as 2007 is going to be my year for letting go of disturbing emotions - I love you and pray you will have a dream or receive a sign - I just know you will.

Love,

A Friend, Belfast, Northern Ireland



So sorry to hear your sad news. My prayers are with you.

Warmly,

A Friend

Oh Darlene. I can feel your pain. I really do know how hard it is to lose a loving pet. And they are so much a part of who we are. I still mourn the loss of all my pets. Some more than others. Kathleen, Eugene, Oregon

This is a very emotional and honest letter, thank you for sharing it with those who support your emails. You have two aspects to deal with... healing and your own guilt. The best way to deal with grief is to look at that spirit's time with you as a gift. And know that you must prepare yourself for dealing with grief in the future for when it's your immediate family members. My sister had an exposure to AIDS and I cried for two weeks waiting for the results. She was fine but it reminded me of how much work I had to do and unprepared I was for a loss of a family member. You are doing the right thing... asking for support. Create a computer file and label it "getting better" and save all of these emails. Trust that you will click on the right one when needed.

Blessings

A Friend, Homewood, Illinois



My sympathy on the loss of your beloved companion. The utter comfort of an adoring, accepting little pet is a safe haven/comfort that we may not even realize that we need.

As to his manner of death: After my brother's suicide, I finally came to the realization that it is hypocritical to forgive others their imperfections and fallibility unless you forgive your own (imperfection and fallibility) also. If this had happened as a result of your husband's actions you would have forgiven him, so... Of course, it's easier said than done.

Best wishes as you grieve and kudos for recognizing your grief and loss and not just burying it or denying it.

Wilma, Carnegie, Oklahoma

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

Beau is beautiful and so are you. I'm sorry for your loss. I live in Salt Lake and there are a group of people that may be able to help you understand what happens to our choice loving friends (animals) once they pass on.

You're welcome to call me.

A Friend



I can't believe that I just now found your email of your very sad news of your precious dog. That particular email address went to a junk file in my office computer – I don't know why – but I will fix that right now.

I am so sorry this happened to you and your little dog. Why do we have to experience such pain in this life – I just don't know. I do – but I don't like it – I'm worn out. I will ponder over the next little while - as I have pains that have absolutely put me into nonfunctional modes for months and still don't have solutions. Just time to heal so I can move onto the next trial.

I wish I had come to see you in those times – and have actually kept in mind in recent weeks to spend time with you regarding my recent divorce. But still working toward a decent income to be able to do that. When I am able to - I would love a few sessions ☐

I will send your letter onto my dear friend - Judy – I know she has some experiences in the passing of her animals – maybe she can add to your collection of stories to help you and others find peace and answers to these unknown questions.

Hang in there –

Love ya...

XOXOXO

Carol

My heart goes out to you in your time of grieving. I too have lost pets that have been my friend, confident and part of me. I know in my heart that they live on, what always happens to me is that they come to me in a dream, usually within a week, but sometimes it takes longer. In my dream I know they have come to say goodbye, and I believe to let me know that they are still existing, happy and once again whole & healthy. Maybe if you ask Beau to come to you in a dream to let you know that he is well, it may happen. I know that you will still feel grief because he is not with you on the physical plane, but it will, if you can allow it; help you let go of any grief that you may be feeling. Believe me, pets love unconditionally and Beau will let you know that he still loves you that way. As humans, many of us truly find it hard to love unconditionally (although we often think we do), but I think loving children and our pets is the closest that we get.

Another suggestion that I would use, is EFT (EMOTIONAL FREEDOM TECHNIQUE), especially when you feel the panic coming on that you feel unable to cope with. There are free manuals you can download from the net, just adapt the words/phrases to suit your purpose. Another therapy I find helpful is using flower essences. There are particular ones for grief, guilt, and also for shock. I think writing to all of us will also help, because one of the things that I love and what gives me hope in this world, is the capacity and willingness each of us has to open our hearts with compassion for someone in need.

I hope I have offered you some comfort, please know that your friend is safe, probably sitting on the angel's knees. Remember 1st there's pain, mixed with tears, but then come the memories that will last thru the years.

Kindest regards

A Friend, Ballarat, Victoria Australia



OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I met Beaumont when I attended the BBQ at your house in September. Like you, we lost our little Pekinese ball of fluff (Ming) a few months back. Although not in such horrific circumstances as your loss, it was difficult nonetheless. It was my wife's dog and she still misses her a lot. The only advice I can give is that it will just take time. Hang on to the great memories and try to let go the guilt of the sad ending.

Regards,

John, Melbourne, Australia



I have experienced the loss of many animals and I can totally relate to how you are feeling.

I have found that prayer works in all aspects of my life, using sage (burning some-it can be found at Dancing Crane) helps to relax me.

Celebrating the joy and love that the dog (its special spirit and the friendship) brought to you brings relief and sharing that with family and friends seems to help.

If you are into needlework start a project. That helps me with the crazy energy/anxiety that I felt with the loss.

Just know that you are in my heart and prayers.

Janice, Murray, Utah

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I am so very sad to hear of your loss... but thought I would share something with you that I hope may help.

I come from a gypsy family, and grew up with a strong belief in the other side. There were many practices in my home that connected to that place. As an adult, however, I began to have some doubts - especially since I am a practicing Christian - and some of my friends are very disapproving about some of the practices with which I grew up.

All of that aside - the part of this story you will find relevant is that in 1983, we had to put our wonderful German Sheppard (Oscar - who was my husband's heart) to sleep because of the ravages of old age. I truly believe Jeff loved him more than anything or anyone else on earth... including me! I always prayed that Oscar would go on to Heaven and wait for us.

Then, on April 6, 2005, Jeff passed away quite unexpectedly - while he was on a business trip. A few nights later, he came to tell me goodbye, and with great excitement, he said "Well, Brenda - there **is** a Heaven... and **Oscar is there with me!**"

I do not tell this story often... most people would think me some kind of fool or fanatic. But I assure you it is true... and no demon and/or figment of my imagination.

Beaumont will be waiting for you when you pass through.

Sincerely,

A Friend, Summerville, South Carolina



OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I am so sorry to hear about your beloved Beau! Pets can become as important to our family units as our children or our spouse. My heart and prayers go out to you right now in this time of loss. I pray that God will comfort you and give you strength. I believe that all of God's creatures return to His side when it is their time to leave this earth. Animals cannot really know right from wrong as we humans can so they are not judged. I believe God treats them as the little children coming back to His Kingdom in Heaven.

I would like to give you a gift, besides these few words. I would like to work on you, minister to your physical body. Please let me know when would be a good time to get together. I work out of my home in Riverton. You can either phone me (828-5784) or email me. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Take care my friend! May you rest peacefully in God's comfort and strength.

Namaste'

A Friend

"Celebrating your good health and well being."



Hello, Darlene, I know you must be feeling such deep pain in all of this, it is understandable. (And, no, just because he was a dog doesn't mean your grieving is any less important!) In my work (intuitive healing) we can connect with "the other side" as part of your healing journey. Also I work with beliefs and energetically clearing them (I bought your book, as I love to be open to all ideas that involve the generation of beliefs and patterns.) I am here should this feel resonant to you. Holding you all in the Light...

LOVE to you and all you love,

Namaste -

Aileene, Annapolis, MD

My deepest sympathies. Try the book "Dog Heaven" by Cynthia Bylant and also John James' *Grief Recovery Handbook*. This was not "JUST a dog" as you put it. This was a family member, sentient being, that adored you. He holds no grudges or feelings of anything but love for you at this time. You gave him life and assisted him on his path to his best path, to Rainbow Bridge where he waits for you. Research Rainbow Bridge online – many sources of inspiration for you about loss of your beloved animal family members. I cry writing this as I still grieve the loss of my Astro who I was blessed with for 15 years... many of which he was a pain in the ____, a huge 120 pain that I loved dearly. We were like an old married couple and entertained everyone as he pulled me everywhere and lived in a condo with my two kitties. We were a motley crew. I devote my life to those that rescue animals, and when I can, I help rescue some myself. Open your heart and hear Beau tell you "I'm OK mommy, don't cry for me". "Remember me whole, perfect and complete" as that is what I will always be. There are no "accidents" that was as the *Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*, page 449 says about 'Acceptance'.

"Acceptance is the key. ... Nothing absolutely NOTHING happens in God's world by mistake."

God bless you, your family and Beau.

Missy, Los Angeles, California



Please accept my condolences for the death of your Beaumont. Thank you for sharing with us how you have been affected by his death.

I think the main problem you have in your hands is not whether Beau is dead but how he died. You are very very guilty. This guilt is something you have to deal with. You need to remember that God gives life and He allows it to be taken away for a reason which only He knows. For all of us however, the question is not whether we will die but rather when. It does not matter who or what somebody is. It was time for Beau to pass on and I have some encouraging news. You might be able to be with Beau in Heaven.

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

My heart is with you. Just a few words typed here in between some work I am doing - more words to come for you at a later time.

That part of your beloved dog who loved you, who was safe with you, that part is still alive and forever alive because spirit never dies. Love never dies.

For your comfort and that of Beaumont, know that you can lie quietly and softly talk to him and send him the same love and security that you did when his spirit was in his body.

I believe with all my heart that this is so and that genuine healing comes with this knowledge.

Please be very kind, very good to yourself - as you would be to the persons you love the most - even animals have their destiny and journey - as do you - so **BE VERY VERY KIND AND LOVING TO YOURSELF.**

May you walk in Aloha,

A Friend



I am so sorry to hear about your dog. I have lost pets too and the pain is awful. I have had to put down two cats and one St. Bernard and that feels like I am playing God and their death is my decision or fault. Like everything it just took time. With my St. Bernard, Candy, I was haunted by it for over two years before I could finally see her face again and I knew she was alright and that I was forgiven.

I have no wisdom to share on this subject but just wanted you to know that I feel for you and your loss.

Love

Casey, Ontario, Canada

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I am sad to hear about your loss, tell ya when I was 10 I had a dog I loved so much and one day I put the bin out and she followed me ran across the road I called for her and a car came and hit her. I saw everything!

This deeply hurt for a long time as if I didn't open the garage door and let her out it wouldn't have happened. It was hard but in time I got over it. Right now I understand how you feel. But know it goes away after time.

My suggestion is to listen to music or an audio of speakers of a uplifting nature so it programs your subconscious to think other thoughts and fades out the sad ones.

I hope this helps...

Also about your question about a after life for dogs well I guess, scriptures don't say anything but I'm sure their might be as they have a spirit also.

I have really had some lessons in life teaching me how powerful faith is ... I think of little kids that come into the world really don't know much or anything but through their environment can program them to believe in anything eg. Santa Claus, so therefore these kids have faith. Well could it be the same for anyone in any belief they had? So I guess you could believe on faith that there is a Heaven for dogs as well.

Beau could be there right now. As happy as he was with you.

Though he may not be there in the flesh, he may be there in spirit. And that's a comforting thought.

LOTS OF LOVE IS COMING YOUR WAY AND SPIRITUAL HEALING!

Lots of love

Jerome, Sydney, Australia



Wow Darlene, I had no idea. I am very sorry for your loss. I have never gone through something like that so I can only imagine what you feel.

I hope you feel better little by little every day, I know Beau is in a nice play up there because it was a pure, beautiful soul that never had any sins.

Sincerely,

Giselle, Fullerton, California

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I just read the email you sent to Marty about your beloved Beau... my heart aches with you! I will pull together information that was a comfort to me when I had my heart broken with a death too. I hope I can be of support, and if you need a new ear to talk to, as you work through this, I surely care and am here for you.



Pets are a special gift from God to his children

Hugs, A Friend, Bountiful, Utah



I'm so sorry about your best little buddy. I have one too.

And you lost your personal little best companion.

I will write you a little letter about my thoughts on it.

I ran into some good things when I went thru when my husband died.
Love you.

I'll be in touch soon.

Brande, Salt Lake City, Utah



We have been through this over 18 years with 3 German Shepherds. One died after two years with a brain tumor, the second just prior ten with a cancer, probably of liver or spleen. Our matriarch died at almost 14, just began shutting systems down. Our fourth dog is now 6-1/2 years.

The first thing you do is forget that Beaumont 'was just a dog.' He was your friend and companion. We don't know anything about the after life concerning dogs but we do believe in life after death.

As with our companions, Beaumont has given you a lot of love and pleasure, please remember that. Later you WILL be able to remember all this and yes, talk about it all, laughing fondly and quietly about the humorous situations. We know this, we cried for six weeks when our second dog (a show dog) had to be put to sleep within a week of diagnosis.

Beaumont would not be blaming you. Dogs are natural givers and what they give us is LOVE. He is safe. The cure is - as soon as possible become a guardian to another dog, not necessarily, as with us, the same breed or age, but do try to spend some time with obedience training so that some commands are understood and acted upon. The dog should always be taught to be by your side if outside off lead. This also may help you get over the horrible shock, as dogs bond with the one who trains it. Another companion does help us to accept the passing of a previously loved friend. And we go on loving them, even though they are no longer with us.

Remember the good times with Beaumont, Darlene. Do not apportion blame.

With sincere regards,

A Friend, Australia



I am soooo... Sorry. If anyone relates to your pain, I do. I'm sorry I didn't get this sooner but for some reason it went into my junk email which I never check. I'll never understand the terminology "just a dog". What is "just" a dog? To me that's like saying "Oh, she was just a baby when she died so you didn't have to grieve adult-size". This website has some great info on it about dogs being angels. Click on the first tab and see what you think. <http://www.creatures.com/PetLoss.html> I've always believed that dogs are somewhat above us in enlightenment... they don't hate, they don't hold grudges, they are wonderful and loving and constant companions. Humans have to work really hard to get half of those traits. I'm sure they go to Heaven and get to do whatever they want when they want. They get excellent food and play and cushy beds. Everyone is their friend.

I came very close to killing one of my favorite dogs of all time. I had taken the "kids" to the canyon after work one day because I was so stressed.

I usually took them up at 6a on weekends but this was 5p on a weekday. We had our "system" and Walter would run across the road until I said "where's Walter" then he'd come running back. Well, DUH, I didn't think that there are a lot more cars at 5pm so as I said "where's Walter" and he came running a car came up around the bend and hit him. He flew high in the air and across the road. I was devastated. I was luck he didn't die but I know his life was shortened by that trauma and he was never the same.

Here's some other info on grieving a pet:

The stages of grief are the same for a pet as they are for a human. In addition to these stages, other emotional reactions may be seen. People can experience shock if the death of their pet was sudden and unanticipated, and may experience an emotional numbness.

In addition to talking with others, to do something often helps us work through our grief. By doing something positive during this time of sadness, we expand our focus by celebrating the life of the pet. Activities which may help include:

Planting flowers or a tree in memory of the pet
Making a charitable donation
Holding a funeral or memorial service
Drawing a picture, making a clay sculpture or doing needlework of something that reminds you of your pet (you could do this yourself, or have it done by a professional)
Placing your pet's nametag on your key ring
Writing a poem, song, or story
Composing music or a song
Creating a memorial photo album or scrap book
Writing a letter to your pet
Framing a photograph
Volunteering your time

People who have a pet who has died need to talk to someone. Often family members and friends are very supportive, but in some instances, they may not understand how important your pet was to you. It is important to find someone who does understand.

There are certain circumstances which can intensify the grief. If a person has recently suffered other losses, feels responsible for the death, or has never fully grieved an earlier death, the grieving process is often more complex. If the pet died of a disease similar to one which the owner or a loved one currently has or has had in the past, the grief can also be compounded.

If the pet has shared a significant event in the owner's life e.g., was a gift from a spouse, the pet alerted the owner of a fire or otherwise 'rescued' the owner, or the pet has 'gotten them through' a difficult period in their life, grief can be compounded. When the pet was a significant source of support for the person, e.g., the person lived alone, adjusting to the death of the pet may be extremely difficult.

Love,
Joanne



OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

What a cute dog!!!! I loved your idea of an eBook, "Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone." How touching is that? It couldn't be better! I also wanted to share a poem that Karin wrote while she was recuperating in the hospital after the accident one month afterwards.

EMOTIONAL WEATHER

Life is like the weather,
It changes from day to day.
Like the rain,
Many tears fall.
Like the wind,
Things blow in and out of life.
Like a storm,
You don't know what to expect.
Like the sun,
Bright days do come.

By Karen



OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

Hi Darlene, I spoke to you the other night. I just received a forwarded e-mail regarding the death of your dog. I just want you to know how sorry I am; I can totally relate. We had an identical situation happen to our kitten a few years ago (my son accidentally stood on it) and my beloved Kiwi (lab) died a few years ago in her 17th year... she was my girl. I am such an animal lover, and have cried over many of my "babies" dying.

I have attached a copy of the "rainbow bridge" I don't know if you have heard of it before, but it comforts me enormously when I think of my Kiwi... I know she is up there waiting for me.

Please know my thoughts are with you.

A Friend



It is incredibly painful to lose a pet. I too had found myself telling people "I know she was just a dog..." When I lost my dog due to my error.

Beaumont was lucky to have been able to live with someone who loved him, appreciated him and enjoyed his company. You cared and his life mattered. And when it comes to animals and their spirits - YES is the answer. How could anything that smiles and bubbles with personality have no soul???? How could something love us so much, unconditionally, be void of spirit? And why wouldn't God want a being, kin to angels, back in his kingdom?

Love & prayers,

Janet, Blaine, Washington

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

I'm sorry to hear about your little companion. I have to share with you about a patient I had when I was working Hospice. I was a nurse to a gentleman that had a new ear to tell a lot of his life stories to. One was about his amazing black cat called Nibs. This cat could jump through hoops and all kind of tricks. He even showed his cat on Fireman Frank TV morning show. It was getting close to the end and his wife would tell me about a cat he complained was sitting on his window sill each day. I asked him what color the cat was and he told me black. He didn't understand who let it in. I told him it was his black cat Nibbs waiting for him. He looked at me stunned then a big tear swelled up in his eye and he shook his head yes.

My sister-in-law told me the last few days of her husband's life he complained about a number of dogs in the house that would come lay down with him or lay at his feet. She never saw them. He had a number of big dogs growing up and during his married life also. I really believe those animals we have all had at one time or another will be there to greet us or be our guides to return home. I know you and have seen the great love you have given a number of animals. I figure you should have a small farm and the other side.

Love you,
Your childhood friend,
Shauna, Salt Lake City



My prayers are with you. Thank you for sharing your process... your vulnerability is beautiful, and Beau was very lucky to have a mommy who loves him so much. I will hold you in my heart as you move through this transition... comforting your heart and allowing it to break open as vast as the ocean to contain and receive even more love than you may ever have imagined.

Kelly, Salt Lake City, Utah

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

Jack Van Impe and his wife Roxella are Christian prophets who I highly respect. Recently, they had a movie entitled "Animals in Heaven". Please go to: www.jvim.com and see if you can find the video. If you cannot, the website has all kinds of goodies.

You are in my prayers.

Eddah, Originally Kenya, Now Kalamazoo, Michigan



You are totally amazing even in the midst of your grief. You write so beautifully and you are so articulate. You touch each one of us with your faith. And yes, I know why you grieve so... Beau died in your hands. You are guilty. That is what my 14 daughter said when I shared information about you with her. But you know, with or without you, Beau was one day gonna go to afterlife. Again, for the first time, I had never imagined that anyone would talk about afterlife for pets but even though I have not watched the video from Jack Van Impe, that is what he suggests, that our pets will be with us in eternity. See if you can get the video - go to "Jack Van Impe Ministries" on the internet and get the video about pets in Heaven. I think you will be so consoled. About the guilt, it is normal because you are human. However, it was an accident. A dreadful accident. But I hope with time you can seek forgiveness from God for "the accident" and then ACCEPT FORGIVENESS in order to heal. I am not minimizing your pain but there is only one way to heal and that is when you say, I know Beau has forgiven me and God has forgiven me. Then you could say something like maybe the way Beau died seems horrible but he could have been hit by a car and be mangled or there are other terrible ways to die. I am sure Beau felt your love and guilt before he died, since you were so close to him. I wish you God's healing love to surround you with comfort and peace that comes only from Him. Thank you for taking time to write. We all love you for being so open with us and showing us your humanness.

This too WILL PASS.

Be blessed.

Eddah, Originally Kenya, Now Kalamazoo, Michigan

A DOG'S PURPOSE - FROM A 4 YEAR OLD

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten year old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dogs owner Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would, be good for four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away..

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me.

I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

~ From A Friend

Unfortunately, I know your grief. June 6, 2005 we lost our Shotzie. It was an absolutely beautiful day. I wanted to take Shotzie for a ride. <http://shotzie.freewebspace.com/> She frequently rode in the back of the truck without any ties - I begged Dave, my significant other, to please make tie downs for her and after 3 years of her riding free in the back - he made a tie down for her, about 2 weeks before she died.

So, I clipped her in the back of the truck. We stopped for gas and I unclipped her to play with her. We got back on the road and hadn't traveled but a mile when I realized she wasn't tied down. She was standing on the tool box just behind the cab of the truck. I asked Dave to stop, and he said we'd tie her down at the stop sign that was just around the bend. We weren't going very fast, maybe 30-35 mph.

As we were making the bend I saw an 18 wheeler coming. I saw it all happen in my mind's eye before it even happened. Before I could react, the nightmare that I had just had, happened. I heard her nails scraping on the tool chest and I couldn't look.

Dave insisted she was alive, but I knew better. We backed the truck up and all I could do was scream for help. She lay in the road, her tail wagging (so Dave insists) but it wasn't wagging, it was twitching --- Dave picked her up and put her in the back of the truck.

We went to the vet, fortunately we were in town, we lived out in the country. There was nothing they could do and she died just a few minutes after we got there. I wondered if maybe the vet did something to her to in those minutes to expedite the situation, because I was hysterical in the waiting room. You would've thought it was my child.

I was more devastated about losing Shotzie than I was when my mother dropped dead (literally, she kicked the bucket - she told my grandmother she wasn't feeling good. My grandmother handed her a bucket, she heard the bucket fall, turned around and my mom was gone, she was only 59). As I sit here telling you the story I'm sobbing - I still can see it as clear as if it happened this morning.

I think it's a lot of guilt. Our pets depend on us to keep them safe. I was careless and because of my carelessness I tragically lost my pet.

The vet had taken off her harness and gave it back to us. He placed her inside a thick hefty lawn bag and Dave carried her back out to the truck. I'm 300# and I couldn't sit in the back of the truck after it first happened and I felt guilty over that. I felt guilty because I couldn't stand that she was laying in the back of the truck in a plastic bag. When we got home I did sit there petting the bag while Dave went to dig a grave for her. The sun was shining and the bag felt warm. I appreciated that it wasn't

one of our rainy Washington days - and at the same time I thought the day was so wasted because Shotzie wasn't going to be able to go to the beach.

We buried her under an enormous evergreen tree of some sort. I had strands of pearl garland which Dave threw up into the branches - it resembled fireworks, she loved fireworks. When she used to run off into the woods we'd call and call and she wouldn't come back - so we bought a case of fireworks and when she'd run off we'd set them off and she'd come running back. Her head stone was a giant wooden spool which she would get on and walk on it so it would roll. I painted rocks - she had these big rocks that she used to skate on. On the asphalt she'd put her front paws on it and it looked like it was on ice the way it would slide. I hung ornaments on the tree branches.

We were living on an Indian reservation in a travel trailer park. Everyone knew Shotzie - because Dave would take her out to a field which was on the main road and have her doing all kinds of tricks. He also dressed her up in a construction outfit. It was a reflective mesh vest that he made for her and then there was a tool belt that she also wore. They also had an orange barrel (like they use for highway projects) that she'd push around. People would stop and take pictures of her -

She was amazingly smart. Remember Lassie - "What's that Lassie? Timmy's in trouble? What's that girl, someone fell in the well?" We used to hold conversations with her - honestly - I don't know what Caesar, The Dog Whisperer would say about that. Shotzie was definitely our pack leader.

Thank you, Darlene, for allowing me to take a moment to remember Shotzie.

It IS incredibly painful to lose a pet. I too had found myself telling people "I know she was just a dog..." Beaumont was lucky to have been able to live with someone who loved him, appreciated him and enjoyed his company. You cared and his life mattered. And when it comes to animals and their spirits - YES is the answer. How could anything that smiles and bubbles with personality have no soul???? How could something love us so much, unconditionally, be void of spirit? And why wouldn't God want a being, kin to angels, back in his kingdom?

Darlene, mourn your loss of a friend and don't doubt for a second - He IS still there for you.

Janet

Good Day Darlene!

Sorry to hear of your loss. In my past career as a veterinarian and as a pet owner I can fully empathize with the pain and loss you feel. Rest assured that Beau is not dead so long as you retain the memories.

God Bless!

A Friend



Last year, I lost not one but two delightful and beautiful cats: Lunch (yes, as in breakfast, lunch, and dinner) and Goober. Lunch was diagnosed with lung cancer suddenly after one night when she had difficulty breathing. Goober died basically of old age (what finally got her was high blood pressure), but she was a breast cancer survivor for over five years.

If you wish to know more details, you can either contact me, or log on to my Live Journal blog <http://delazan.livejournal.com/>

Just click on the "cats" tag (left column) for my entries about my cats. The story of Lunch's illness and subsequent euthanization begins on December 29, 2005.

Lori



Hi Darlene:

For anyone reading your book that had to put their pets to sleep this poem may help, it did for me.

Casey

A DOG'S PRAYER

By Beth Norman Harris

Treat me kindly my beloved master, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between the blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me do.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.

When it is cold and wet, please take me inside, for I am now a domesticated animal, no longer used to bitter elements. And I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth. Though had you no home, I would rather follow you through ice and snow than rest upon the softest pillow in the warmest home in all the land, for you are my god and I am your devoted worshipper.

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for although I should not reproach you were it dry, I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food, that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life should your life be in danger.

And, beloved master, should the great Master see fit to deprive me of my health or sight, do not turn me away from you. Rather hold me gently in your arms as skilled hands grant me the merciful boon of eternal rest - and I will leave you knowing with the last breath that I drew, my fate was ever safest in your hands.



SCRIPTURAL INSIGHTS

I Have a Question...

Do animals have spirits and are they resurrected? Yes. The Prophet Joseph Smith received information concerning the eternal status of animals. Answers to questions he posed are in the Doctrine and Covenants, section 77 [D&C 77]. He also spoke about the resurrection of animals in a sermon but did not expand on the subject. (*History of the Church*, 5:343.)

To what degree of glory do animals go: The scriptures speak only of animals being in the celestial kingdom. Whether they go to other kingdoms is a matter of conjecture. Elder Joseph Fielding Smith on one occasion said the distribution of animals into all three degrees of glory is “very probable.” (*Improvement Era*, Jan. 1958, p. 16-17.) To my knowledge, no other prophet had published an opinion on the subject.

Are animals judged and resurrected according to their obedience to laws: According to Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, animals do not have a conscience. They cannot sin and they cannot repent, for they have not knowledge of right and wrong. (*Man: His Origin and Destiny*, Deseret Book Co., 1954, pp. 204-205.)

Can animals be with their owners in the hereafter? There is no revealed word on this subject. Reason would tell us that a rancher or farmer may not want all of the cattle he had owned during his life. On the other hand, emotional ties may be honored and family pets may well be restored to their owners in the resurrection, Elder Orson F. Whitney wrote that Joseph Smith expected to have his favorite horse in eternity. (*Improvement Era*, August 1927, p. 855.)

Just what is the relationship between men and animals? Men are children of God. Animals are for the benefit of man. This does not mean, however, that man is not to have a concern for this part of his stewardship. The prophets in all ages have indicated that man will be accountable for his treatment of animals and that justice and mercy should be exercised concerning them. Alma encourages us to pray over our flocks. (*Alma* 34:20, 25.) There are numerous examples in Church history of animals being administered to by the anointing of oil and their resultant healing. In the best-known incident, Mary Fielding Smith’s oxen were spared to bring her pioneer family, including a future President of the Church, Joseph F. Smith, to Utah. (*Preston Nibley, Presidents of the church*, Deseret Book, co., 1959, pp.234-34.)

The Gospel and Animals

Current ecological concern has raised the question of the status of animal life in the universe. The treatment of animals by man has ranged from worship to cruelty. What is the will of our Heavenly Father in regard to animals: The prophets, past and present, have said much that is relevant on the subject.

“Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things....And surely, blood shall not be shed, only for meat, to save you lives; and the blood of every beast will I require at you hands.” (*JST, Gen 9:9-11.*)

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

The Lord further explained to Hosea concerning the millennial state of animals; :And in that day will I Make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of Heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.” (*Hosea 2:18.*)

A Friend, Cedar City, Utah



A FINAL NOTE

I hope you have felt consoled and know that you are definitely not alone and thought of. It is a good idea to keep a journal, each day as you process your questions, what you have learned and your experiences.

Each trial in life brings us joy to the same degree as our pain. May you all enjoy the reward of greater love and joy **because you owned a dog!**

With Love,

Darlene Braden



APPRECIATE EVERY STEP!

FEEL GOOD ACTIONS

Things to do to honor your pet and feel better:

- Plant some flowers or a tree in memory of the pet.
- Make a charitable donation.
- Hold a funeral or memorial service.
- Draw a picture.
- Making a clay sculpture.
- Doing needlework of something that reminds you of your pet (you could do this yourself, or have it done by a professional).
- Place your pet's nametag on your key ring.
- Write a poem, song, or story.
- Compose music or a song.
- Create a memorial photo album or scrap book.
- Write a letter to your pet.
- Frame a photograph.
- Volunteer your time to talk. People who have a pet who has died need to talk to someone.
- Often family members and friends are very supportive, but in some instances, they may not understand how important your pet was to you. It is important to find someone who does understand.



FOR FURTHER SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

Here are some websites that I found helpful about death and animals. Many of these sites were sent in response to my email about Beau. Share them with your loved ones or anyone else you know who is grieving the loss of their pet.

If you know of any helpful websites, please send them to me at Darlene@darlenebraden.com.

Character Counts

www.charactercounts.org.

Rainbow Bridge Poem

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow_Bridge_%28pets%29

Bright Wings

<http://www.brightwings.com>

Pet Loss Grief Support Site

<http://www.petloss.com/>

Pet Loss Support Page

<http://www.pet-loss.net/>

<http://www.pet-loss.net/Heaven.html>

Elisabeth Kübler Ross, renowned author of the book *On Death and Dying*

<http://www.elisabethkublerross.com/pages/books.html>

OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE?

Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement

<http://www.aplb.org/frame.html>

Creatures in Heaven

<http://www.creatures.com/>

<http://www.creatures.com/PetLoss.html>

There is Eternal Life for Animals book website

<http://www.eternalanimals.com/>

My Pet Heaven virtual memorial site

<http://www.mypetHeaven.com/>

Pet Heaven NQ in Australia

<http://www.petHeaven.com.au/>

Angelic Artistry presents Pet Heaven

<http://www.gotoHeaven.com/rama.htm>

Pet Heaven Memorial Park in Miami, FL

<http://www.pet-Heaven.com/>



RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Embraced By the Light

by Betty J. Eadie

In His Arms: Experiences with The Other Side

by Denise Mendenhall.

Life Everlasting

by Duane S. Crowther

Saved by the Light

by Dannion Brinkley

The Gateway We Call Death

by Russell N. Nelson



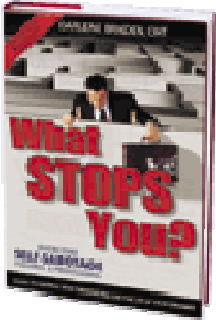
Darlene Braden CHT

Darlene Braden brings to her clients a wealth of practical experience. Not only has she experienced tremendous success in sales and sales management she has also become recognized for her ability to create deep and lasting change in both individuals and organizations.



Darlene holds a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Utah. She has continued her education and in the field of the unconscious mind and her additional credentials include: Clinical Hypnotherapist (CHT) Master NLP Practitioner, Master Health Practitioner, Reiki Master and is trained to deal with drug treatment and substance abuse addiction.

She is a mother of five children and brings to you her positive nurturing style and sends love and care to you and your journey in life.



Darlene Braden is the bestselling author of *What Stops You? Overcome Self-Sabotage Personal and Professional*.

Do you want to make more money, get in top physical shape, create more passion in your relationships, or simply live with more peace and freedom than ever before?

What Stops You?, Overcome Self-Sabotage Personal and Professional by Darlene Braden is the perfect resource to show you how. This book is an incredible guide to understanding what stops you from achieving what you want so you can discover and harness your ability to live your dreams once and for all!

Braden's own journey of self-discovery began decades ago and escalated after she broke her back, lost her brother to cancer and her best friend to a car accident. Over the next decade she discovered a simple formula for overcoming even the most devastating experiences and turning them into experiences of empowerment.

With Braden's relaxed writing style, she will share insights on how to overcome the self-sabotaging behavior that holds you back from living a life filled with abundance, passion and joy.

As a successful business coach, professional speaker and mentor, Darlene will take you on your own journey of self-discovery like none other. Braden utilizes the connections of various spiritual and religious teachings to help you understand the beliefs that prevent you from living your dreams. She shows you how to overcome behaviors that stop you from achieving what you want.

Darlene's breakthrough strategic life plan gives you the tools for unlocking your power and ability to create what you want, when you want and how you want it once and for all. You will have the ability to create the life you have always dreamed of starting right now.

When you read **What Stops You?**, success will come naturally. Without even thinking about it, your every action will bring you closer to each one of your life goals. You will be confident, feel and look great, and be able to live with more passion than ever before. Your friends will look at you in awe as you power through every day with unstoppable confidence and a passion-filled drive to succeed at everything you do!

Order your own copy today! www.whatstopsy.com

Here's what others are saying about this groundbreaking book...

The book, What Stops You, is a powerful book and well written. I inhaled it from the minute I picked it up, and read it from front to back. I will use what I learned in the book the rest of my life. It is delightful too. I loved it, it was great.

Brenda Breaux, South Jordan, Utah

There really is a way to free yourself from negative & limiting beliefs and to accept that you do deserve all that you dream. This book was the catapult that shot me into another level of progress and joy.

Amazon Reader Review, Salt Lake City, Utah

This book has helped me attain my life goals and be excited to reach higher. It is written so that I can reuse the book to assist with my next goal. I had a huge "Ah Ha!" moment, when I realized all of my behaviors were created by my mind to help me in some way. What a huge inspiration and gift! Thank you!

Sally Yates, Ladera Ranch, CA

This all encompassing book on self-sabotage helped me through a time in my life when I went "over-the-edge." The book successfully guided me through a new way of looking at life.

Lana Barlow, Salt Lake City, Utah

This book is written very simply in a structured way, which helps get a complex message across to change people's lives.

Jerome Rezel, Melbourne, Australia

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