

Donating your Pet's body to the School of Anatomy, University of Bristol

Information and Instructions
for Pet Owner and their
Veterinary Practice.



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Teaching our future Vets and Anatomy Students

The School of Anatomy delivers all anatomy teaching to the Veterinary Science, Veterinary Nursing and Anatomy students at the University (up to 200 each year). We also facilitate several veterinary surgical training courses with organisations such as the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA).

All our students, and qualified veterinary surgeons attending training courses, learn from animal bodies, just as our Medical and Dental students learn from bequeathed human bodies. The School strongly believes that teaching anatomy using animal bodies is a vital and valuable practice that leads to a sound anatomical knowledge and produces highly skilled compassionate professionals. The Pet Memorial Education Programme allows us to continue to produce such individuals who will provide the best possible quality of care of animals for generations to come.

Please consider taking part in this worthwhile Programme, giving back to future Veterinary and Anatomy professionals and pets.

We recommend you review the information in this booklet before making any decisions.



What will my pet's body be used for?

Your pet's body may be used for one or more of the following purposes.

1. Anatomical examination

This includes teaching, studying and researching the form, shape and structure of the animal body. It allows us to use the body for teaching anatomy to Veterinary Science Veterinary nursing, and Anatomy students.

2. Education or training related to veterinary health

Animal Health professionals derive great benefit from the opportunity to develop surgical skills and other clinical

procedures on a body. We run and support many courses that develop and further clinical and surgical skills.

3. Research relating to disorders, or the functioning of an animal's body.

This could be as part of undergraduate education or Animal Health professional training.

In some cases, your vet may ask your permission to share your pet's medical history with us in order to enhance student learning and research. In this situation you and your pet's identities will not be shared with the students or training professionals.



As a lecturer I believe that the opportunity for our veterinary students to be able to learn anatomy from donor specimens rather than models is invaluable. The students gain so much more than just basic anatomical knowledge, including an introduction to surgical skills, and being exposed to the anatomical variation between individual animals. The students, in turn, appreciate the opportunity to learn from 'real life' and show a great level of respect towards the animals used in our teaching. As a pet owner myself, I would seriously consider donating my own animals when the time came.

Imogen Richens BVetMed PhD MRCVS

Teaching Fellow and Veterinary Team Professional



Notes for completing the consent form

If you wish to donate your pet's body you should sign the Bequest Consent Form. The form must be completed in duplicate. Please sign and date both forms, providing valid consent for acceptance of your pet's body for anatomical examination, education, training and research. The form must also be signed by your witnessing Veterinary Surgeon at your practice. One copy of the form should be sent to the School of Anatomy and one copy should be held by your Veterinary Practice to be kept with your client records.

The Bequest Consent Form can be completed after the death of your pet, or in advance if you are planning for the future, or if you and your vet have agreed on a planned euthanasia.

Please note that unfortunately we are unable to provide a post mortem report, or any information about your pet in regard to the research or educational work. Additionally, you will not be able to collect your pet's ashes.

Withdrawing Consent

Please note that the consent forms are not legally binding in any way. In the case of completing forms in advance, if you then change your mind about donating, please contact us and your veterinary surgeon and we will remove your details from our system and the Bequest Consent form will be destroyed.

Our Memorial Book

The staff and students at the School of Anatomy are greatly appreciative of all our donors and your pet will be remembered on our online Memorial Book, on the School's website. You are invited to send us a photograph of your pet to go alongside their entry.



Instructions for the registered owner after death

The School of Anatomy is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. There is a voicemail system at the office and owners should leave their name and telephone number as a recorded message so that we can deal with it promptly on return.

Unfortunately, we are unable to collect your pet's body during the major public holidays at Christmas, New Year and Easter due to the Centre being closed. During these times, owners are advised to discuss with their Veterinary Surgeon the possibility of their pet's body being looked after at their veterinary practice until we are able to collect.

In advance of a planned euthanasia or at the time of your pet's death you should:

1. Telephone the School of Anatomy (**0117 928 9031**) as soon as possible. If you are informing us of a planned euthanasia then alternatively you can email us at anat-ssadmin@bristol.ac.uk
2. If the death occurs at your veterinary practice we will arrange with them a time to collect your pet's body.
3. If the death occurs at home, we will endeavour to collect your pet's body that same day. If this is not possible then your pet's body should be taken to your veterinary practice and held while we make arrangements for collection.

4. If the death occurs at home overnight, at the weekend or on a bank holiday, again your pet's body should be taken to your veterinary practice as soon as possible, until the School has reopened, and arrangements can be made.

5. After the initial phone call, we will arrange with yourself and /or your veterinary practice, collection of your pet's body, at no cost to yourself or the veterinary practice. The School will then be responsible for the safe keeping of your pet's body until such time cremation is required. During this time your pet's body will be treated with respect all times by students and staff.

Regrettably, in some circumstances, due to the nature of an animal's death, the donation may not be suitable for anatomy teaching. In these circumstances we cannot guarantee acceptance. If we are unable to accept your pet's body please speak to your veterinary practice to make alternative arrangements. We hope you will understand that this does not mean any ingratitude on our part.

Instructions for the veterinary practice

The School greatly appreciates your support and assistance with our donation programme which enables us to fulfil your clients wishes.

Please place a notification of your client's intentions on your records along with a signed copy of the Bequest Consent Form. We ask that the client's Veterinary Surgeon witnesses and also signs the consent form.

At the time of death or in advance of a planned euthanasia, please discuss with your client the procedure previously described above in the section 'Instructions for the registered owner after death'.

Either yourselves or the registered owner can contact us at this time, on 0117 928 9031, arrangements will then made between the veterinary practice and the School to collect the body as soon as possible. If not already received, we will need to attain a copy of the Bequest Consent Form on collection.

In some circumstances, over weekends and bank holidays it may be necessary for the body to be held by the veterinary practice for a few days until the School is open and collection can be arranged. In these cases, we are thankful for your cooperation. As stated previously above, the School will collect at no cost to the practice and will be responsible for the care and storage of the body until the time of cremation.

A brief medical history of the animal may be asked for by the School, this information will enhance the students learning and any research projects being undertaken. All identifiers of the pet, owner and veterinary practice will be removed before being shared with students.

Please be aware that in some circumstances due to the nature of the animal's death we may not be able to guarantee acceptance of the body. Due to Health and Safety reasons the School is unable to accept any animal that has undergone Chemotherapy within a week of their death.

If the School cannot accept the body, then please discuss alternative arrangements with your client.

If you have any questions that you wish to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact us on **0117 928 9031**.

Contact us

Pet Memorial Education Programme
School of Anatomy
University of Bristol

bristol.ac.uk/anatomy
anat-ssadmin@bristol.ac.uk
0117 928 9031

