

VMX
2025
VETERINARY MEETING & EXPO

Festival of the HeARTS



Presented By:

NAVCH
YOUR VETERINARY COMMUNITY

JANUARY 25-29

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

NAVCOM.COM

The Impact of the Human-Animal Bond on End-of-Life Care Experiences and Outcomes

Subtitle

Meet the Panelists



Dana Connell

*DVM, MPH, DIPLOMATE ACVIM
(ONCOLOGY)*
Global Medical Affairs Specialist, IDEXX
Veterinary Oncologist,
Compassionate Veterinary Oncology



Kathleen Cooney

DVM, MS, CHPV, CPEV, DACAW
Senior Director, Medical Education for the
Companion Animal Euthanasia Training
Academy (CAETA)



Dani McVety-Leinen

DVM
Founder & CEO,
Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice

Euthanasia and the Human-Animal Bond

The Veterinarian's Perspective

- Few veterinarians feel their training adequately prepared them for euthanasia
- In a recent study, veterinarians report the following feelings after performing euthanasia:
 - 84% feel sadness
 - 70% feel frustration
 - 67% feel doubtful about the procedure
 - 59% feel guilt

Cooney, Kathleen, and Barry Kipperman. "Ethical and practical considerations associated with companion animal euthanasia." *Animals* 13.3 (2023): 430.

Euthanasia and the Human-Animal Bond

The Client's Perspective

- Pet owners can become emotionally traumatized by negative experiences associated with euthanasia, or 'dysthanasia'
- Data shows that 14% of pet owners will not return to the practice where euthanasia was performed on their pet
- Pet owners want more assistance and less anxiety when it comes to planning for euthanasia. They also want to be present and involved in aftercare discussions.

Cooney KA, Kogan LR, Brooks SL, Ellis CA. Pet Owners' Expectations for Pet End-of-Life Support and After-Death Body Care: Exploration and Practical Applications. *Top Companion Anim Med.* 2021 Jun;43:100503. doi: 10.1016/j.tcam.2020.100503. Epub 2020 Dec 28. PMID: 33383233.
Fernandez-Mehler, Petra, et al. "Veterinarians' role for pet owners facing pet loss." *Veterinary Record* 172.21 (2013): 555-555.

Resources

Euthanasia and the Human-Animal Bond

For Veterinarians

1. [NAVC Human-Animal Bond Certification](#)
2. [The Euthanasia Experience \(NAVC\)](#)
3. [Managing Emotions & Euthanasia - Personal Wellness \(NAVC\)](#)
4. [The Euthanasia Conversation: Communicating with Grace, Dignity, and Support \(NAVC\)](#)
5. [Providing culturally responsive end-of-life care for pets \(AVMA\)](#)
6. [Pet X Talks – The Compassion of Euthanasia ft. Dr. Dani McVety](#)
7. [The Companion Animal Euthanasia Training Academy \(CAETA\)](#)

For Pet Owners & Clients

1. [End-of-life care for your pet \(AVMA\)](#)
2. [Coping with the loss of a pet \(AVMA\)](#)
3. [In-Home Pet Euthanasia \(Lap of Love\)](#)
4. [Veterinary Pet Hospice \(Lap of Love\)](#)
5. [Cremation & Aftercare \(Lap of Love\)](#)
6. [About Telehospice \(Lap of Love\)](#)
7. [Pet Loss Support \(Lap of Love\)](#)
8. [How will I know it's time? \(Lap of Love\)](#)

VMX 2025: Schedule of Upcoming Sessions on Euthanasia & End of Life

Tuesday, January 28

2:15pm

VMX Learning Theater North

A Peaceful Passing: Best Practices To
Improve the End of Life and Euthanasia
Experience for Our Patients and Clients
Shannon Cabell

2:45pm

OCCC North

End of Life Concepts in the ER/ICU
Elke Rudloff

Wednesday, January 29

1:40pm – 3:35pm

OCCC South

The Art of Euthanasia - Compassionate
Closure From Phone Call To Final Hug
(Part 1, 2)

4:05 – 4:55pm

What Would You Do?

The Euthanasias That Pull on Our
Heartstrings
Mary Gardner

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

I have financial interest, arrangement or affiliation with:

Name of Organization	Relationship
Company A	Employee, honorarium, grant, consultant, own stock, etc.
Company B	Employee, honorarium, grant, consultant, own stock, etc.
Company C	Employee, honorarium, grant, consultant, own stock, etc.
Company D	Employee, honorarium, grant, consultant, own stock, etc.



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*We thank you,
with all our **heARTS***

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