

What To Do When A Pet Dies and You Want To Add Another To The Family

There is no doubt that pets are [good for your health](#) and quality of life. But because their life expectancy is much shorter than ours, you will most certainly outlive more than one cat or canine companion in your lifetime. When you lose a furry friend, you may want to run out and “replace” them immediately. Below, you will find advice on a few things to think about before adding four paws to your family once again.

Memorialize them.

Our pets quickly become a part of our hearts and homes. When they pass, it is only natural to want to memorialize them in a meaningful way. One way to do this is to invest in [pet cremation](#). You can then turn their ashes into a memorial tree that you can grow inside or outside. You may likewise include their ashes in jewelry or glassware or get a [lasting imprint](#) of their paw on clay.

Creating a meaningful memorial will help you say goodbye so that you will be ready to open your doors to another animal that will also steal a piece of your heart.

Clean the house.

In the weeks prior to bringing home a new animal, take steps to ensure there are no lingering signs of your former companion. While this might sound like you are turning your back on their memory, there is a much more practical purpose of performing a deep clean.

Animals read their environment by scent. The more pungent the lingering odor, the more likely your pet is to want to mark their new territory. According to Small Pets Select, a dog's sense of smell is up to [100,000 times](#) stronger than humans. Not only should you open the windows and shampoo the carpets, but also [remove pet hair](#) from floors, baseboards, furniture, and other surfaces.

Remove and replace their things

While you are cleaning, don't forget to pack up their bed, toys, and other items. You'll need to replace these with new items that your next pet can turn into their own. This can be expensive, however, so plan to shop around online. [Chewy](#) is one of the more affordable pet supplies sites where you can also find deals and discounts on everything from pet food to [medical supplies](#), including flea and tick medicine.

Choose wisely.

Choosing your new pet should not be based on your experiences with your former companion. All dogs, cats, and other domestic animals have unique personalities. Because of this, it makes sense to pay close attention to your lifestyle and the things you want in your next pet. Martha

Stewart contributor Roxanna Coldiron explains there are many [questions to ask yourself](#). She also points out that birds, fish, rabbits, and hamsters are also viable options.

Address grief

[Grief](#) is only natural after the loss of a pet. You must address it and learn how to cope with the sadness you feel before you try to open your heart to another. Grieving the loss of a pet can be difficult for everyone, especially children. Give yourself plenty of time to process your loss and heal your heart before you jump into another relationship with a furry friend.

Adopt, don't buy

Finally, pay homage to your loss by adopting an animal in need instead of rushing out to the pet store. Your pet may have lost their life but you have an opportunity to [save another](#). An added benefit of adopting versus buying from a pet store is that they have an opportunity to showcase their personality. Talk to the adoption staff and get their opinions on whether or not they believe this animal will fit into your lifestyle.

Losing a pet is a tragic loss that leaves you with an empty space in your heart and home. When you are ready to fill both gaps, take your time. Don't rush into it and make your decisions carefully.



Image via [Pexels](#)