

Pet care

This information is about pet care when you have cancer. Looking after a pet can sometimes become a worry because of cancer and its treatment.

You may be worried if you:

- are struggling to look after your pet or are no longer able to look after them
- have to go into hospital for a time
- have to move into a nursing or residential home
- do not know who will look after your pet if you die.

This can be a very distressing time. You may need to plan to make sure your pet is looked after.

Tips for managing pet care

- Find out who can help. Ask friends, neighbours and family members who live nearby. Your pet may know and trust them. Family members farther away may also be able to help, but it will take more planning.
- Talk to your local vet. They may know of a local volunteer support scheme or fostering service.
- Local animal charities and organisations may be able to help. You may be able to find them online or in the local newspaper.
- Ask a hospital social worker for advice. They have a duty to protect your property if you are admitted to hospital. This includes any pets, if there is no one else to take care of them.
- Look online for national pet organisations, such as The Cinnamon Trust and PetPals, that may be able to help.
- If you can, you may want to consider a local boarding service, kennel or cattery. However, they may be expensive.
- If you have to go into a nursing or residential home, try finding one that will allow pets. Many are listed on the Elderly Accommodation Council website.
- If you have to find a new home for your pet, use an organisation or charity that specialises in finding the right home, such as National Animal Welfare Trust.
- Plan for an emergency. Think about who could look after your pet at short notice. Write their details on a card that you keep in your wallet. You could also write down your vet's details.
- Give as much information about your pet as you can to anyone looking after them. For example, tell them your pet's food, routine, health issues, how you reward them and who their vet is.
- Think about who will look after your pet after your death. You can leave details in your will. If you have no friends or family members that can take your pet, many national charities, including Cats Protection and Dogs Trust, have a re-homing service. You will need to register your pet with the service.

Local resources:

Resource	Contact details

National resources:

Resource	Contact details
• The Cinnamon Trust	www.cinnamon.org.uk Tel 0173 675 7900
• PetPals	www.petpals.com Tel 0126 432 6362
• National Animal Welfare Trust	www.nawt.org.uk Tel 0208 950 0177
• Cats Protection	www.cats.org.uk Tel 0300 012 1212
• Dogs Trust	www.dogstrust.org.uk Tel 0207 837 0006
• Elderly Accommodation Council	www.housingcare.org/elderly-uk-pet-friendly-homes.aspx

Further information

www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support/organising/practical-preparation-for-treatment/pet-care.html

More information and support

If you have more questions or would like to talk to someone, call the Macmillan Support Line free on **0808 808 00 00**, Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm, or visit macmillan.org.uk

Deaf or hard of hearing? Call using NGT (Text Relay) on **18001 0808 808 00 00**, or use the NGT Lite app. Speak another language? Telephone interpreters are available. Please tell us in English the language you would like to use.

We produce information in a range of formats and languages. To order these visit macmillan.org.uk/otherformats or call our support line.

Revised in August 2018. Next planned review in 2021.

