



Partners to the Bridge

For the Veterinarian

In partnership with the community of veterinarians and trusted animal service providers, **Partners to the Bridge** supports companion animals and their families once decline and end of life care is sought. Through home visits, phone and email support, our assistance can keep animals and their families together and at home where they are most comfortable, as the animal moves toward the “Rainbow Bridge” either by appropriately planned euthanasia or else through natural death.

We liaison between the family and the veterinary community, assisting caregivers as they follow your carefully constructed and continually evolving palliative care plan. With time spent listening and emotionally supporting the family we take the load off you and your in-house staff. We help formulate solutions for environmental, hygienic and nutritional concerns. We acknowledge that beings in the end of life have limited energy flow and have experience with home-based comfort care through noninvasive and natural modalities that serve as an adjunct to your veterinary care plan.

Similar to the successful human hospice model, we have found that thorough care is best achieved through a hospice team of providers who may provide services and therapies including but not limited to:

- acupuncture
- acupressure
- massage
- aquatic therapy
- Tellington Touch
- Reiki
- intuitive communication
- flower essences
- nutrition and feeding solutions

Extensive care like this requires a coordinated effort and that’s our specialty! If we have not already done so, we will present you and your staff with our program developed on Animal Hospice Teams, in collaboration with the International Association of Animal Hospice and Palliative Care ([see IAAHPC.com](http://IAAHPC.com)) and endorsed by their Education Committee, of which we are members. We offer forms for easier documentation and reporting. We provide regular updates so you and your staff can remain as involved as you want to be. You decide and we will make

every effort to accommodate your requests and facilitate communication with your patient's family and the members of the care team.

We discuss with owners what they can expect on the journey they are sharing with their animal friend. We provide observation forms and simple quality of life scales to provide them with objective evidence to support their decision making. We support them in their decision once euthanasia seems prudent and help them act on the previously developed and team-approved plan.

If the family has not chosen euthanasia assistance and they wish to follow their animal on its journey to a natural death, then we diligently work with you on the goal of excellent pain management for their animal. We educate the family about the dying process so they can anticipate and understand what they might see. If the team agrees that sufficient palliative care cannot be achieved once the journey proceeds, we help them to act on their contingency plan. We can be there for them on a 24-7 basis to work through crises until veterinary care is available. We counsel and arrange for aftercare, including transport, cremation, and burial. To facilitate grieving we suggest ways to celebrate the life they shared with their animal friend through anything from simple rituals to formal memorials.

We emphasize the need for all caregivers to take good care of themselves as well as their animal, allowing them respite to remain healthy and effective in all aspects of their life. As in human hospice care, **Partners to the Bridge** can bring proven tools and trusted resources to empower the family as they honor their pets through providing end of life care. In partnership with your valued care and support, your clients' loyalty is assured by a gratifying experience during this memorable time so they may move through their loss and toward healing.

To proceed with referral, please contact us through any of the modes offered below. Records and reports are appreciated, as well as the chance to speak with you before contacting your clients directly. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Michelle Nichols, MS

michelle@PartnerstotheBridge.com

office: 425.223.5722

Fax: 888.449.8497