We would like to thank you for taking a moment of your time to familiarize yourself with the CSU Pet Hospice program, a valuable resource you can offer your clients. By becoming a liaison between you and your client, we help provide end-of-life home care for your patients as well as emotional and educational support for their owners.

CSU Pet Hospice operates through the efforts of veterinary student case managers who provide home visits for patients who are under your care. The primary role of our case managers is to offer supportive assistance and foster communication between you and your client. The case managers can give in-home care, such as administering fluids, changing bandages, or helping owners give medications. They help explain disease processes, assess pain and overall quality of life, and provide body care option explanations, while providing emotional and educational support as well as grief counseling. The managers follow your instructions in advising clients and preparing them for the loss of their pet. They do not give diagnoses, change medication dosages, provide critical care, or perform euthanasia. After each home visit, they relay an objective assessment of the pet’s condition and any client’s concerns back to you.

Our case managers are supervised by two faculty advisors, Gail Bishop, Clinical Coordinator for the Argus Institute, and Dr. Sue Lana, Clinical Oncology. The student case managers receive training in quality of life and pain assessment, facilitating end of life discussions, grief counseling, and nursing care. Since its inception in 2004 we have served over 130 families, trained over 145 student volunteers and have worked with over 76 veterinarians.

The criteria for hospice care are that a pet has been given a terminal diagnosis and is believed to have less than three to six months to live, and the clients must live within 30 minutes of Fort Collins and be willing to have two of our case managers visit them at their home. Depending on the case, your instructions, and the owner’s and pet’s needs, the managers would visit anywhere from every two weeks to as often as twice a day. You will be provided with a written report detailing the interactions with the client and an assessment of the pet within 24 hours of a visit. Any medical decisions or euthanasia would still be up to your discretion.

This service is free to you and your clients. The students who volunteer with Pet Hospice benefit by gaining direct experience with client communication, pain assessment, and end-of-life counseling.

Please visit our website to find answers to questions you and your staff may have about our program. If you are interested in providing Pet Hospice care for your clients or have additional questions, please call our team managers at (970) 219-7335. We look forward to working with you.

Thank you for considering CSU Pet Hospice for your clients.

Pet Hospice Faculty Supervisors
Gail Bishop
Sue Lana

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