



## Birmingham veterinary hospital addresses pet end-of-life choices in workshop series starting May 16

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# Animal Health News

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May 7

[Vet Offers End Of Life Choices For Your Cat - CBS Local](#)

CBS Local Vet Offers End Of Life Choices For Your Cat CBS Local BIRMINGHAM (WWJ) – A Birmingham vet is offering what is believed to be the first service of its kind in metro Detroit; a hospice for cats. Dr. Cindy Houlihan at the Cat Practice says with pets living longer than ever before, many owners want to make ... and more »

Original link: <http://www.whisperingpinespc.com/animal-health-news.php#cats>

## Cat Practice Develops Hospice Program for Aging Felines

Veterinary clinic to hold a four-part workshop on caring for aging cats beginning May 16.

- By [Laura Houser](#) May 4, 2012



For aging relatives, families often turn to hospice care to ensure parents and grandparents with terminal health conditions live out the rest of their lives comfortably and safely.

But what about when those growing older or developing diseases aren't humans — they're your cats?

That's where Birmingham's [Cat Practice](#) — a cat-only veterinary clinic — is stepping in, offering end-of-life care for some of our furriest, and best, feline friends.

"Helping your feline friend through a final illness is definitely worth the effort," Troy resident and cat owner Maryann Clark said. "Especially when they know that the treatments you provide are making them feel better."

The cat hospice program began with Clark in 2009 and her two cats, Rocky and Purrdy. In 2009, 16-year-old Purrdy developed kidney failure and heart disease. In 2011, 17-year-old Rocky was diagnosed with heart disease.

While euthanasia is often the go-to option for pet owners with seriously ill pets, Clark wanted Rocky and Purrdy to live as long as possible assuming they were still active and could enjoy a good quality of life.

The Cat Practice opened its doors to Clark and her feline buddies, where the pair became the first patients to receive hospice and end-of-life care at the veterinary clinic. The pair's hospice care was even chronicled for friends and family on the [clinic's Facebook page](#).

### **Hospice program includes 'comfort care,' affection, pain medication**

Both cats have since passed away and the Cat Practice hopes to offer the hospice service to all of their patients.

Cats in the hospice program — open to families whose cats face an incurable condition — will receive care at home under the direction of Cat Practice veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek. Families will be taught how to administer care and have a regular pipeline to Kramek for guidance and support.

Families in the hospice program will also receive reduced pricing on office visits and pet pain medications. As part of the program, pets will receive "palliative," or comfort care, that includes medication for pain and discomfort, physical affection, favorite foods and extra time with family members.

"Cats are living 20 years and more," Kramek said. "Conditions once considered untreatable — kidney failure, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease — can all be managed today. As more pets are viewed as family members, their families are looking for options to euthanasia while their pets still enjoy good quality of life."

In addition, psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald, who works with the Cat Practice, will be available for grief counseling.

"Emotionally speaking, losing a pet is not very different than losing anyone else we love," Greenwald said. "Therefore, having some understanding of the normal grieving process and commonly associated feelings can help people navigate their way through what is a painful, but very natural and normal life process."

## **Workshops on caring for aging cats begins May 16**

To help pet owners prepare to care for an aging pet, the Cat Practice will hold a [four-part workshop series](#), Caring for Aging Kitties, starting May 16.

During the program, Kramek and Greenwald will speak on caring for geriatric cats, making end-of-life decisions, pet hospice care and grieving.

A donation of \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series is recommended, with all proceeds going to the Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpractice.com](http://www.thecatpractice.com) or call 248-540-3390.

"Pets touch people's lives and hearts in so many ways," Kramek said. "Today, saying goodbye can be a time to continue this bond. As long as a pet is comfortable and still enjoys quality of life, pet families have choices and that is what we want to give them."

Original link: <http://birmingham.patch.com/articles/cat-practice-develops-hospice-program-for-aging-felines>

## Birmingham veterinary hospital addresses pet end-of-life choices in workshop series starting May 16

[Wednesday, May 16, 2012](#), 6:00 pm

[The Cat Practice, 875 S Worth St, Birmingham, MI](#) | [Get Directions »](#)  
[\\$10.00](#)

**Birmingham Michigan, May 1, 2012** – Pets are living longer, just like people, due to better nutrition and advancements in medical care. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when Fluffy or Fido get old, have a serious illness or just need help getting around.

To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, *Caring for Aging Kitties*, starting May 16. The series is part of a new hospice program being offered by The Cat Practice. Topics include: Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16), Making End-of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Speakers are veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek and psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald. Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390.

While The Cat Practice cares exclusively for feline patients, any pet owner is welcome and will benefit from the workshops.

“We are seeing cats living 20 years and more,” says Kramek. “Conditions once considered untreatable – kidney failure, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease – can all be managed today. As more pets are being viewed as family members, their families are looking for alternatives to euthanasia while their pet still enjoys good quality of life.”

Original link: <http://birmingham.patch.com/events/birmingham-veterinary-hospital-addresses-pet-end-of-life-choices-in-workshop-series-starting-may-16>



Thursday, May 31, 2012

## Veterinary Hospital Starts Michigan's First Pet Hospice To Care For Aging And Terminally Ill Pets

In 2007, when my Angel Bobo was facing the final days of his life, just prior to turning 18, (he passed one day after his 18th birthday), I was faced with many agonizing decisions. Wanting to preserve his dignity and lessen his suffering, and after his communication to ME "that yes it was time," (which he told me AFTER I held him and told him I would be ok, and to please not worry. Bobo's life was spent protecting me and I knew he would never cross the bridge without knowing I would be ok), I chose to help him cross the bridge in the safety and love of our home, on our couch.

Bobo had been ill with feline heart issues and deteriorating kidney function for two years prior to the day I made the heartbreaking decision. In one sense, I was blessed that his worst days didn't go on for months, so had a Pet Hospice existed at that time I am not sure it would have been a necessity for me. Bobo had become deaf, he was inactive, his breathing labored, my formerly "I-live-for-my-Mama-and-for-food" cat had stopped eating. My beloved Bobo no longer had a good quality of life. Had things been different and Pet Hospice existed, I might have looked into it.



The Cat Practice hospice in Birmingham, Michigan, will offer end-of-life care, modeled after human hospice that alleviates physical discomfort and provides a caring end-of-life experience for the pet and the pet's family. Like human hospice, The Cat Practice hospice is for families whose pets face an incurable condition, but can still enjoy quality of life. Instead of curative treatment, pets receive palliative, or comfort care, that includes medication for pain and discomfort, physical affection, favorite foods and extra time with family

members.

In 2011, Troy resident Maryann Clark faced a difficult decision when her 17-year-old brown tabby cat Rocky was diagnosed with heart disease, and in 2009 when her 16-year-old calico Purrdy developed kidney failure and heart disease. For many pet owners with seriously ill or aging pets, euthanasia has been the only choice.

Clark instead wanted her felines to live as long as possible assuming that they were still active and could enjoy good quality of life.



Pets in the hospice program receive care at home under the direction of The Cat Practice **veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek**. Families are taught how to administer care and have a regular pipeline in to Kramek for guidance and support. They also get reduced pricing on office visits and pet pain medications. **Psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald**, who works with The Cat Practice, is available for grief counseling. Future plans include a memory wall on the hospital's website for remembering deceased pets.

"Cats are living 20 years and more," says Kramek. "Conditions once considered untreatable – kidney failure, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease – can all be managed today." To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, **The Cat Practice will hold parts 3 and 4 of a 4 part workshop series, Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Greenwald on Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390.**



*"Emotionally speaking, losing a pet is not very different than losing anyone else we love," says Dr. Greenwald. "Therefore, having some understanding of the normal grieving process and commonly associated feelings can help people navigate their way through what is a painful but very natural and normal life process."*

*"Pets touch people's lives and hearts in so many ways," says Kramek. "Today, saying good bye can be a time to continue this bond. As long as a pet is comfortable and still enjoys quality of life, pet families have choices and that is what we want to give them."*

While The Cat Practice just recently formalized its hospice program, the hospital has been providing clients and their felines with options for end-of-life care for a number of years. In fact, it was clients asking for alternatives that led to the program.



#### **About Laura Kramek**

Kramek is a veterinary hospice nurse and licensed veterinary technician (LVT) with a special interest in geriatric pets, pet hospice and end-of-life care. She works closely with pet families to help them know all of their options. Kramek has been with The Cat Practice since 1993 and is a graduate of Michigan State University. She and her husband live in Dearborn Heights with their two cats Epoisses and Pinot.

#### **About Camille Greenwald, PhD.**

Dr. Greenwald is a licensed clinical psychologist. She has been in private practice in Birmingham for 20-plus years, and has served as a consultant at William Beaumont Hospital. She is a graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Detroit and is also a member of the American Psychological Association and the Michigan Psychological Association. Dr. Greenwald, a life-long cat owner, shares her home with her family and three cats: Caspurr, Henry and Bill who is geriatric.

#### **About The Cat Practice**

The Cat Practice, Michigan's first cats-only veterinary hospital, opened in 1981. Open seven days a week and evenings, The Cat Practice provides advanced preventative and medical care with an emphasis on early detection to **help cats live longer, better and healthier lives**. Located at 875 South Worth in Birmingham, Michigan, The Cat Practice cares for feline purebred and mixed breeds from around southeastern Michigan. For information go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call **248-540-3390**

I am interested in hearing your thoughts. If a Pet Hospice existed in your area, would it be something that you would consider?

Original link: <http://opcatchat.blogspot.com/2012/05/veterinary-hospital-starts-michigans.html>

# Cat Lovers Blog

By [administrator](#) | MAY 7, 2012

## **Hospice eases end of life for cats**

*News from Hometownlife.com:*

Pets are living longer, just like people. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when pets get old, develop a serious illness or just need help getting around.

In 2011, Troy resident Maryann Clark faced such a decision when her 17-year-old brown tabby cat Rocky was diagnosed with heart disease, and in 2009 when her 16-year-old calico Purrdy developed kidney failure and heart disease.

For many pet owners with seriously ill or aging pets, euthanasia has been the only choice. Clark instead wanted her felines to live as long as possible assuming that they were still active and could enjoy good quality of life. Clark got her wish at The Cat Practice veterinary hospital at 875 S. Worth in Birmingham where her cats were among the first patients to receive hospice and end-of-life care.

Rocky and Purrdy, whose hospice care was chronicled for friends and family on Facebook, have since gone on to kitty heaven.

And now, The Cat Practice wants to give more pet owners the same choice by opening what is believed to be Michigan's first pet hospice.

"Helping your feline friend through a final illness is definitely worth the effort," Clark said. "Especially when they know that the treatments you provide are making them feel better."

The Cat Practice hospice will offer end-of-life care, modeled after hum..... *continues on Hometownlife.com*

[... Read the full article](#)

Original link: <http://cats.ipetlovers.com/pets-ohio-wild-animal-stampede-ignites-vast-law-review/>





## **Birmingham veterinary hospital addresses pet end-of-life choices in workshop series starting May 16**

**May 16, 2012 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm (Wednesday)**

[Birmingham, Michigan, United States](#)

### **Event Details**

#### **Description**

Hospital launches Michigan's first pet hospice

Birmingham Michigan, May 1, 2012 – Pets are living longer, just like people, due to better nutrition and advancements in medical care. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when Fluffy or Fido get old, have a serious illness or just need help getting around.

To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, Caring for Aging Kitties, starting May 16. The series is part of a new hospice program being offered by The Cat Practice. Topics include: Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16), Making End-of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Speakers are veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek and psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald. Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390.

While The Cat Practice cares exclusively for feline patients, any pet owner is welcome and will benefit from the workshops.

“We are seeing cats living 20 years and more,” says Kramek. “Conditions once considered untreatable – kidney failure, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease – can all be managed today. As more pets are being viewed as family members, their families are looking for alternatives to euthanasia while their pet still enjoys good quality of life.”

#### **Cost**

Payment required - Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need.

#### **Links**

<http://www.thecatpracticepc.com/hospiceseminars.html>

Original link: [http://events.detroit.cbslocal.com/birmingham\\_mi/events/birmingham-veterinary-hospital-addresses-pet-E0-001-047959423-8](http://events.detroit.cbslocal.com/birmingham_mi/events/birmingham-veterinary-hospital-addresses-pet-E0-001-047959423-8)



## Vet Offers End Of Life Choices For Your Cat

May 7, 2012 4:53 AM

Reporting [Sandra McNeill](#)



**BIRMINGHAM (WWJ)** – A Birmingham vet is offering what is believed to be the first service of its kind in metro Detroit; a hospice for cats.

Dr. Cindy Houlihan at the Cat Practice says with pets living longer than ever before, many owners want to make sure they're doing the best they can for their pets at the end of their lives.

“It’s almost like us, if we were approaching the end of our life, what would we want to do – to be happy. There are many things people can do at home with very little cost or no cost,” Houlihan told WWJ’s Sandra McNeill.

Houlihan says that clients were looking for alternatives and options to euthanasia.

On-call nurse Laura Kramek says pet owners usually have one over-riding concern.

“How to know when ... maybe the time that we just can’t do anymore and it helps the people because they feel they have control over the situation, to some degree,” said Kramek.

Pets are more comfortable in their own home being taken care of by their people says Dr. Houlihan.

The average time in hospice is three months and Houlihan says it’s really not that expensive.

The service also includes discount pain medication and daycare.

Original link: <http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2012/05/07/end-of-life-choices-for-your-pet/>



# Birmingham Veterinary hospital open first pet hospice center

## Now pet owners have a choice besides euthanasia

Published On: May 02 2012 03:27:21 PM EDT Updated On: May 03 2012 04:28:24 PM EDT



Pets are living longer, just like people. But for families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when a pet get old, develops a serious illness or just needs help getting around.

For many pet owners with seriously ill or aging pets, euthanasia has been the only choice.

Now one local veterinary hospital is helping families in this situation.

The [Cat Practice veterinary hospital](#) in Birmingham is now offering hospice and end-of-life care to family pets.

The Cat Practice hospice will offer end-of-life care, modeled after human hospice that alleviates physical discomfort and provides a caring end-of-life experience for the pet and the pet's family. Like human hospice, The Cat Practice hospice is for families whose pets face an incurable condition, but can still enjoy quality of life.

Psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald, who works with The Cat Practice, is available for grief counseling.

Future plans include a memory wall on the hospital's website for remembering deceased pets.

Cat Practice can be reached at 248-540-3390.

Original link: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/lifestyle/pets/Birmingham-Veterinary-hospital-open-first-pet-hospice-center/-/1718840/12513456/-/n6fad1/-/index.html>

## Hospice eases end of life for cats

May 6, 2012



Purdy and Rocky -in cat heaven now - inspired the cat hospice concept.

Pets are living longer, just like people. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when pets get old, develop a serious illness or just need help getting around.

In 2011, Troy resident Maryann Clark faced such a decision when her 17-year-old brown tabby cat Rocky was diagnosed with heart disease, and in 2009 when her 16-year-old calico Purdy developed kidney failure and heart disease.

For many pet owners with seriously ill or aging pets, euthanasia has been the only choice. Clark instead wanted her felines to live as long as possible assuming that they were still active and could enjoy good quality of life. Clark got her wish at The Cat Practice veterinary hospital at 875 S. Worth in Birmingham where her cats were among the first patients to receive hospice and end-of-life care.

Rocky and Purdy, whose hospice care was chronicled for friends and family on Facebook, have since gone on to kitty heaven.

And now, The Cat Practice wants to give more pet owners the same choice by opening what is believed to be Michigan's first pet hospice.

“Helping your feline friend through a final illness is definitely worth the effort,” Clark said. “Especially when they know that the treatments you provide are making them feel better.”

The Cat Practice hospice will offer end-of-life care, modeled after human hospice that alleviates physical discomfort and provides a caring end-of-life experience for the pet and the pet's family. Like human hospice, The Cat Practice hospice is for families whose pets face an incurable condition, but can still enjoy quality of life.

Instead of curative treatment, pets receive palliative, or comfort care, that includes medication for pain and discomfort, physical affection, favorite foods and extra time with family members.

Pets in the hospice program receive care at home under the direction of The Cat Practice veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek. Families are taught how to administer care and have a regular pipeline in to Kramek for guidance and support. They also get reduced pricing on office visits and pet pain medications.

Psychologist Camille Greenwald, who works with The Cat Practice, is available for grief counseling. Future plans include a memory wall on the hospital's website for remembering deceased pets.

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To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, Caring for Aging Kitties, starting May 16. Kramek will speak on Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16), Making End-of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Greenwald on Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call (248) 540-3390.

The Cat Practice cares exclusively for feline patients, but any pet owner is welcome and will benefit from the workshops.

“Emotionally speaking, losing a pet is not very different than losing anyone else we love,” said Greenwald. “Therefore, having some understanding of the normal grieving process and commonly associated feelings can help people navigate their way through what is a painful but very natural and normal life process.”

While The Cat Practice just recently formalized its hospice program, the hospital has been providing clients and their felines with options for end-of-life care for a number of years. In fact, it was clients asking for alternatives that led to the program.

“Pets touch people's lives and hearts in so many ways,” said Kramek. “Today, saying good bye can be a time to continue this bond. As long as a pet is comfortable and still enjoys quality of life, pet families have choices and that is what we want to give them.”

Original link: <http://www.freep.com/article/C5/20120506/NEWS02/205060342>

# The Detroit News

## Birmingham veterinary hospital addresses pet end-of-life choices in workshop series starting May 16

Wednesday, May 16 6:00p to 7:00p  
at [The Cat Practice](#), Birmingham, MI

Price: Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need.

**Age Suitability:** None Specified

Tags: There are no tags.

To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, Caring for Aging Kitties, starting May 16. The series is part of a new hospice program being offered by The Cat Practice. Topics include: Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16), Making End-of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Speakers are veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek and psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald.

Original link: [http://events.detroitnews.com/birmingham\\_mi/events/show/257715884-birmingham-veterinary-hospital-addresses-pet-endoflife-choices-in-workshop-series-starting-may-16](http://events.detroitnews.com/birmingham_mi/events/show/257715884-birmingham-veterinary-hospital-addresses-pet-endoflife-choices-in-workshop-series-starting-may-16)

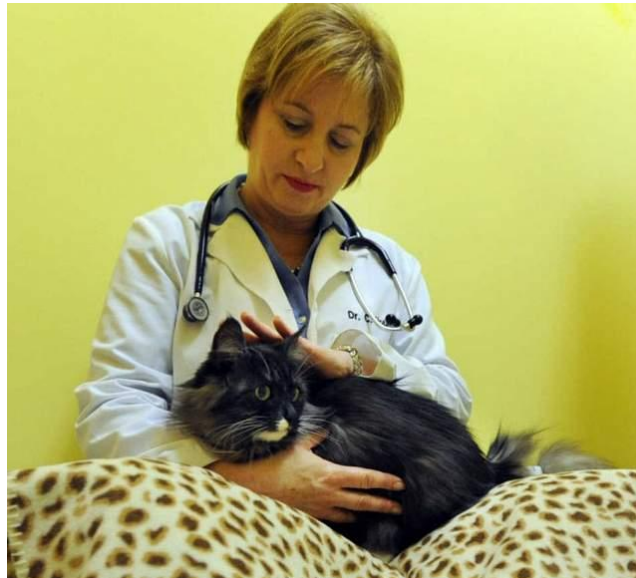


# Metro and State

May 4, 2012 at 11:27 am

## Cats get end-of-life care at pet hospice

- By Lauren Abdel-Razzaq The Detroit News



Dr. Cindy Houlihan on Thursday examines Flash, a 12-year-old cat with intestinal cancer who has undergone three weeks of hospice care treatments, at The Cat Practice in Birmingham. (Brandy Baker / The Detroit News)

*Birmingham* — When her cat Rocky was diagnosed with heart disease and diabetes, Maryann Clark wasn't sure what to do for her beloved pet.

Years earlier, she'd had another cat with a terminal illness. Rocky's diagnosis brought back memories of weekly trips to the veterinarian's office for fluid treatments that had left her cat Cusum swollen and uncomfortable. She knew she didn't want to do the same to Rocky.

"I wasn't able to do anything at home for her," the Troy resident said. "Nobody was giving me any options."

That's when she turned to The Cat Practice, a small clinic at 875 S. Worth Road off Woodward Avenue in Birmingham. There she met Laura Kramek, a veterinary technician specializing in geriatric and hospice care for cats, who helped develop an end-of-life treatment plan for Rocky.

The clinic, which for years has offered care for elderly or terminally ill felines, this week announced a home-based hospice program the owners say is the first of its kind in Michigan.

"Our clients that were coming in with their kitties asked for it," Kramek said. "We're just formalizing it now."

Hospice may not be the proper choice in all situations and sometimes euthanasia is a better option for extremely ill pets, said veterinarian Cindy Houlihan, who joined the clinic in 1987 and is now the principal owner. But advancement in medications and treatments can give owners more choices while still doing what's best for the animal.

"It's just about keeping the kitties happy and comfortable for the remainder of their lives," Houlihan said.

Enrolling in the hospice program at The Cat Practice costs \$75 dollars per week, which includes the cost of office visits and gives patients access to veterinarians at all times. Medications can cost a great deal more, although the clinic has partnered with a pharmaceutical firm to provide discounts to clients.

The clinic also is turning to Dr. Camille Greenwald, a Birmingham-based psychologist, to help owners come to terms with loss. Greenwald herself knows something of the grieving process: Two of her cats were in Kramek's hospice program years ago.

Greenwald will be teaching a grieving seminar, and clients can make appointments with her. There is an additional cost, although it could be covered by health insurance.



"Sometimes people make an assumption that grieving and mourning the loss of a pet is going to be easier than losing a human being and they are often taken by surprise," Greenwald said.

Determining whether hospice care is a viable option for a pet involves weighing the severity of the disease, observing the animal's behavior and determining a prognosis for quality of life, said Kramek.

"It's stopping trying to help them live longer just for the sake of living longer," she said. "The goal is to keep the kitties at home with their loved ones. It's all about making them as comfortable as possible for as long as they have left."

Some of the suggestions are easy enough, such as moving food bowls and beds into accessible locations and giving the cats lots of their favorite treats and toys. Other options involve using different oral and topical medications to manage pain.

The Cat Practice's 15 employees sees 12 to 15 cats a day and is open seven days a week.

In the back, nestled in heated beds, two of the clinic's four resident cats, Caitlin and Frank, relax while listening to soothing music from a desktop computer. Before Caitlin's elderly owner died, Houlihan had promised to look after her cats.

At the front desk, another resident, Taco, greets clients as they come in. Roaming in the back treatment room, behind a closed door, visiting cats chase each other and play with toys, while staffers work around them.

"Everyone cares deeply about what they do," Houlihan says of her staff. "Even when the cats are scared or not feeling well, that we can make it better for them gives us great joy."

A few years after Maryann Clark's cat Rocky began treatment, his mother, Purrdy, was diagnosed with kidney failure. Once again, Clark went to Kramek for help. Rocky ended up living for four more years after his diagnosis, but Purrdy died within a year.

While the process of medicating and taking care of her cats was often time-consuming and expensive, Clark says it was worth it.

"If this was my child I wouldn't say 'well too bad, you're diabetic, I can't do anything for you,'" she said. "With the medications, you see such a difference in the quality of their life."

[lrazzaq@detnews.com](mailto:lrazzaq@detnews.com)

(313) 222-2127

From The Detroit News: <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120504/METRO/205040357#ixzz1uCgvIDo7>

## Vet Offers End Of Life Choices For Your Cat

May 7, 2012

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Dr. Cindy Houlihan at the Cat Practice says with pets living longer than ever before, many owners want to make sure they're doing the best they can for their pets at the end of their lives.

“It’s almost like us, if we were approaching the end of our life, what would we want to do – to be happy. There are many things people can do at home with very little cost or no cost,” Houlihan

**...Read more News from CBS News WWJ TV:**

<http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2012/05/07/end-of-life-choices-for-your-pet/>

Original link: <http://detroit-on.us/2012/05/07/vet-offers-end-of-life-choices-for-your-cat/>

## Cats get end-of-life care at pet hospice

May 4, 2012

*Birmingham* — When her cat Rocky was diagnosed with heart disease and diabetes, Maryann Clark wasn't sure what to do for her beloved pet.

Years earlier, she'd had another cat with a terminal illness. Rocky's diagnosis brought back memories of weekly trips to the veterinarian's office for fluid treatments that had left her cat Cusum swollen and uncomfortable. She knew she didn't want to do the same to Rocky.

"I wasn't able to do anything at home for her," the Troy resident said. "Nobody was giving me any options."

That's when she turned to The Cat Practice, a small clinic at 875 S.

**...Read more News from News-ON Detroit:**

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120504/METRO/205040357/1409/metro/Cats-get-end-life-care-pet-hospice>

Original link: <http://detroit-on.us/2012/05/04/cats-get-end-of-life-care-at-pet-hospice/>



## Birmingham veterinary hospital addresses pet end-of-life choices in workshop series starting May 16

When

Wed May 16 (full schedule below)

Where

[The Cat Practice](#)

Time

6:00-7:00pm

Cost

\$10 - \$25

Tags

[Pets](#), [Health & Wellness](#)

BUY TICKETS

### Description

Birmingham veterinary hospital addresses pet end-of-life choices in workshop series starting May 16

Hospital launches Michigan's first pet hospice

Birmingham Michigan, May 1, 2012 – Pets are living longer, just like people, due to better nutrition and advancements in medical care. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when Fluffy or Fido get old, have a serious illness or just need help getting around.

To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, Caring for Aging Kitties, starting May 16. The series is part of a new hospice program being offered by The Cat Practice. Topics include: Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16), Making End- of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Speakers are veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek and psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald. Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to <http://www.thecatpracticepc.com> or call 248-540-3390.

While The Cat Practice cares exclusively for feline patients, any pet owner is welcome and will benefit from the workshops.

“We are seeing cats living 20 years and more,” says Kramek. “Conditions once considered untreatable – kidney failure, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease – can all be managed today. As more pets are being viewed as family members, their families are looking for alternatives to euthanasia while their pet still enjoys good quality of life.”

### Schedule

Wed May 16 (6:00-7:00pm)

Caring for geriatric cats

Wed May 30 (6:00-7:00pm)

Making End- of-Life Decisions

Wed Jun 13 (6:00-7:00pm)

Pet Hospice Care

Wed Jun 27 (6:00-7:00pm)

Pet Loss and Grieving

### More Info

**The Cat Practice**  
875 S. Worth  
Birmingham, MI

Link <http://www.thecatpracticepc.com>

Call 248-540-3390

Original link: <http://www.detroit.com/birmingham-veterinary-hospital-addresses-pet-end-of-life-choices-in-workshop-series-starting-may-16-e1586241>

[pet education](#) June 25, 2012

## Birmingham cats-only veterinary hospital offers workshops for pet parents



[Stephanie Newman](#)  
Detroit Cats Examiner  
[+ Subscribe](#)



[Scooter the cat and The Cat Practice's Laura Kramek, LVT and Dr. Cindy Houlihan, DVM](#) Photo credit: [Stephanie Newman](#)

[The Cat Practice](#), Michigan's first cats-only veterinary hospital, offers general health care to area cats, including Michigan's first cat hospice program, as well as educational workshops for pet parents. They began offering workshops about a wide variety of cat-related issues at pet fairs several years ago, which became so popular that they now offer them twice a month at their location at 875 South Worth in Birmingham.

Past subjects include, kidney disease, emergency preparedness, and rabies. They even had an animal communicator speak to workshop attendees and their living and deceased cats! Workshops over the past few months have covered the subjects of caring for geriatric cats, making end-of-life decisions, and pet hospice care.

The next workshop is on the subject of pet loss and grieving, on Wednesday, June 27 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The speaker will be licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Camille Greenwald, PhD. The hope is to impart to pet parents that feelings of grief and sadness are normal, and there's nothing wrong with those feelings.

The cost is \$10 per person, payable via Paypal from [The Cat Practice website](#). The proceeds go to the Rufus Feline Memorial Fund for needy homeless and injured cats. Space is limited, so you should reserve your space early. Although workshops focus upon cat-related issues, all pet lovers are welcome.

Please contact The Cat Practice at 248-540-3390 if you have any questions, and feel free to subscribe to their free monthly newsletter, [The Scoop](#).

Original link: [http://www.examiner.com/article/birmingham-cats-only-veterinary-hospital-offers-workshops-for-pet-parents?cid=db\\_articles](http://www.examiner.com/article/birmingham-cats-only-veterinary-hospital-offers-workshops-for-pet-parents?cid=db_articles)



# Cat Hospice

## Cat Hospice

Updated: Saturday, 26 May 2012, 9:58 AM EDT

Published : Friday, 25 May 2012, 4:41 AM EDT

Pets are living longer, just like people. For pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when pets get old, develop a serious illness or just need help getting around.

[The Cat Practice Hospice](#) offers end-of-life care, modeled after human hospice that alleviates physical discomfort and provides a caring end-of-life experience for the pet and the pet's family. Like human hospice, The Cat Practice hospice is for families whose pets face an incurable condition, but can still enjoy quality of life. Instead of curative treatment, pets receive palliative, or comfort care, that includes medication for pain and discomfort, physical affection, favorite foods and extra time with family members.

Follow the below link to watch Saturday's segment with Laura Kramek and Maryann Clark.

**Original link:** <http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/dpp/mornings/weekend/Cat-Hospice>

## GRIEF HEALING

USEFUL INFORMATION ON CARE GIVING, GRIEF AND TRANSITION - FOR ANYONE COPING WITH LOSS

### **Caregiving and Hospice, April 29 - May 5, 2012**

Best selections from [Grief Healing's Twitter stream](#) this week

Cat Practice Develops Hospice Program for Aging  
Felines, <http://bit.ly/L4F05o> from [@equestrianangel](#) via [@hospice news](#)

Original link: <http://www.griefhealingblog.com/2012/05/caregiving-and-hospice-april-29-may-5.html>



# Medical Futility Blog

Saturday, May 5, 2012

## Cat Hospice



The CAT PRACTICE has offered care for elderly or terminally ill felines for years. But, this week, they announced a home-based hospice program. It costs \$75 dollars per week, which includes the cost of office visits and gives patients access to veterinarians at all times. Medications can cost a great deal more, although the clinic has partnered with a pharmaceutical firm to provide discounts. The clinic is also partnering with a psychologist, to help owners come to terms with loss.



Hospice may not be the proper choice in all situations and sometimes euthanasia is a better option for extremely ill pets. But advancement in medications and treatments can give owners more choices while still doing what's best for the animal.

Original link: <http://medicalfutility.blogspot.com/2012/05/cat-hospice.html>

## [Caring for Aging Kitties Workshop Series at the Cat Practice in Birmingham](#)

May 16, 2012 - Jun 27, 2012

Pets are living longer, just like people, due to better nutrition and advancements in medical care. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when Fluffy or Fido get old, have a serious illness or just need help getting around. To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, Caring for...

[View event details...](#)

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Detailed listing:

# Caring for Aging Kitties Workshop Series at the Cat Practice in Birmingham

**Event** May 16, 2012 to Jun 27, 2012  
**Date/Time** 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm



**Description** Pets are living longer, just like people, due to better nutrition and advancements in medical care. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when Fluffy or Fido get old, have a serious illness or just need help getting around. To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, Caring for Aging Kitties. The series is part of a new hospice program being offered by The Cat Practice. Topics include: Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16), Making End- of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27).

**Cost** \$10/workshop, \$25/series

**Location** The Cat Practice  
875 S. Worth St.  
Birmingham, MI  
[View map »](#)

**Additional Info** **Website** <http://www.thecatpracticepc.com>

Original link: <http://www.metroparent.com/Metro-Parent/Calendar/Events-Calendar/index.php?cpevents=17&sievents=160>

## Birmingham Veterinary hospital open first pet hospice center



[ClickonDetroit.com](http://ClickonDetroit.com)

updated 5/3/2012 4:46:32 PM ET

Pets are living longer, just like people. But for families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when a pet get old, develops a serious illness or just needs help getting around.

For many pet owners with seriously ill or aging pets, euthanasia has been the only choice.

Now one local veterinary hospital is helping families in this situation.

The Cat Practice veterinary hospital in Birmingham is now offering hospice and end-of-life care to family pets.

The Cat Practice hospice will offer end-of-life care, modeled after human hospice that alleviates physical discomfort and provides a caring end-of-life experience for the pet and the pet's family. Like human hospice, The Cat Practice hospice is for families whose pets face an incurable condition, but can still enjoy quality of life.

Psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald, who works with The Cat Practice, is available for grief counseling.

Future plans include a memory wall on the hospital's website for remembering deceased pets.

Cat Practice can be reached at 248-540-3390.

Original link: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/47267521>

## The Cat Practice opens state's first pet hospice in Birmingham

Published: Monday, June 04, 2012

Pets are living longer, just like people. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when pets get old, develop a serious illness or just need help getting around.

In 2011, Troy resident Maryann Clark faced such a decision when her 17-year-old brown tabby cat Rocky was diagnosed with heart disease, and in 2009 when her 16-year-old calico Purrdy developed kidney failure and heart disease. For many pet owners with seriously ill or aging pets, euthanasia has been the only choice. She instead wanted her felines to live as long as possible assuming that they were still active and could enjoy good quality of life.

Clark got her wish at The Cat Practice veterinary hospital in Birmingham where her cats were among the first patients to receive hospice and end-of-life care. Rocky and Purrdy, whose hospice care was chronicled for friends and family on Facebook, have since gone on to "kitty heaven." And now, The Cat Practice wants to give more pet owners the same choice by opening what is believed to be Michigan's first pet hospice.

"Helping your feline friend through a final illness is definitely worth the effort," Clark says. "Especially when they know that the treatments you provide are making them feel better."



The Cat Practice hospice will offer end-of-life care, modeled after human hospice that alleviates physical discomfort and provides a caring end-of-life experience for the pet and the pet's family. Like human hospice, The Cat Practice hospice is for families whose pets face an incurable condition, but can still enjoy quality of life. Instead of curative treatment, pets receive palliative, or comfort care, that includes medication for pain and discomfort, physical affection, favorite foods and extra time with family members.

Pets in the hospice program receive care at home under the direction of Laura Kramek, veterinary hospice nurse and licensed veterinary technician (LVT). She has been with The Cat Practice since 1993 and is a graduate of Michigan State University.

Families are taught how to administer care and have a regular pipeline to Kramek for guidance and support. They also get reduced pricing on office visits and pet pain medications. Psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald, who works with The Cat Practice, is available for grief counseling. Future plans include a memory wall on the hospital's website for remembering deceased pets.

"Cats are living 20 years and more," says Kramek. "Conditions once considered untreatable — kidney failure, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease — can all be managed today. As more pets are viewed as family members, their families are looking for options to euthanasia while their pet still enjoys good quality of life.

To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice is holding a workshop series, Caring for Aging Kitties.

The next workshop is Pet Hospice Care on June 13 and Pet Loss and Grieving is June 27. Donations of \$10 are requested per workshop with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390. The Cat Practice, which opened in 1981, cares exclusively for feline patients, but any pet owner is welcome to attend the workshops. The Cat Practice provides advanced preventative and medical care with an emphasis on early detection.

### FYI

The Cat Practice, 875 South Worth in Birmingham. Visit [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390.

It is open seven days a week and evenings.

Original link: [http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/06/04/news/local\\_news/doc4fc8114768419799446644.txt](http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/06/04/news/local_news/doc4fc8114768419799446644.txt)

## Hospice eases end of life for cats

May. 6, 2012



Purdy and Rocky -in cat heaven now - inspired the cat hospice concept.

Pets are living longer, just like people. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when pets get old, develop a serious illness or just need help getting around.

In 2011, Troy resident Maryann Clark faced such a decision when her 17-year-old brown tabby cat Rocky was diagnosed with heart disease, and in 2009 when her 16-year-old calico Purdy developed kidney failure and heart disease.

For many pet owners with seriously ill or aging pets, euthanasia has been the only choice. Clark instead wanted her felines to live as long as possible assuming that they were still active and could enjoy good quality of life. Clark got her wish at The Cat Practice veterinary hospital at 875 S. Worth in Birmingham where her cats were among the first patients to receive hospice and end-of-life care.

Rocky and Purdy, whose hospice care was chronicled for friends and family on Facebook, have since gone on to kitty heaven.

And now, The Cat Practice wants to give more pet owners the same choice by opening what is believed to be Michigan's first pet hospice.

“Helping your feline friend through a final illness is definitely worth the effort,” Clark said. “Especially when they know that the treatments you provide are making them feel better.”

The Cat Practice hospice will offer end-of-life care, modeled after human hospice that alleviates physical discomfort and provides a caring end-of-life experience for the pet and the pet's family. Like human hospice,

The Cat Practice hospice is for families whose pets face an incurable condition, but can still enjoy quality of life.

Instead of curative treatment, pets receive palliative, or comfort care, that includes medication for pain and discomfort, physical affection, favorite foods and extra time with family members.

Pets in the hospice program receive care at home under the direction of The Cat Practice veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek. Families are taught how to administer care and have a regular pipeline in to Kramek for guidance and support. They also get reduced pricing on office visits and pet pain medications.

Psychologist Camille Greenwald, who works with The Cat Practice, is available for grief counseling. Future plans include a memory wall on the hospital's website for remembering deceased pets.

“Cats are living 20 years and more,” said Kramek. “Conditions once considered untreatable - kidney failure, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease - can all be managed today. As more pets are viewed as family members, their families are looking for options to euthanasia while their pet still enjoys good quality of life.”

To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, Caring for Aging Kitties, starting May 16. Kramek will speak on Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16), Making End-of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Greenwald on Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call (248) 540-3390.

The Cat Practice cares exclusively for feline patients, but any pet owner is welcome and will benefit from the workshops.

“Emotionally speaking, losing a pet is not very different than losing anyone else we love,” said Greenwald. “Therefore, having some understanding of the normal grieving process and commonly associated feelings can help people navigate their way through what is a painful but very natural and normal life process.”

While The Cat Practice just recently formalized its hospice program, the hospital has been providing clients and their felines with options for end-of-life care for a number of years. In fact, it was clients asking for alternatives that led to the program.

“Pets touch people's lives and hearts in so many ways,” said Kramek. “Today, saying good bye can be a time to continue this bond. As long as a pet is comfortable and still enjoys quality of life, pet families have choices and that is what we want to give them.”

Original link: <http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20120506/NEWS02/205060342/1019/rss02>



## Coping with a pet's death

Jun. 17, 2012 |

When a pet dies, the loss can be more devastating than losing a person,” says Birmingham psychologist Camille Greenwald, who will conduct a workshop on Pet Loss and Grieving at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27, at The Cat Practice in Birmingham as part of the veterinary hospital's cat hospice program and series on Caring for Aging Kitties.

Today, pets are living longer and are considered part of the family. Greenwald will talk about how pet owners are forming closer relationships with their pets, making end of life and death more difficult to face. The human-animal bond is also unique in that pets provide unconditional love without conflict, whereas human relationships are mixed. Plus, pets have come to fill very special void in a world that has become increasingly unpredictable and hostile.

At the same time, Greenwald says that many pet owners who lose their pets have difficulty coping with their feelings of grief since friends and family oftentimes do not understand what they're going through.

“We live in a culture that says we're not supposed to feel unhappy about anything. When it concerns an animal, some people may brush this off. But the grief is very real.”

Donation is \$10 for the workshop with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call (248) 540-3390.





## Aging, ill pets can get quality care

May 2, 2012 By [admin](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

BIRMINGHAM, Mich. –

Pets are living longer, just like people. But for families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when a pet get old, develops a serious illness or just needs help getting around.

For many pet owners with seriously ill or aging pets, euthanasia has been the only choice.

Now one local veterinary hospital is helping families in this situation.

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Psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald, who works with The Cat Practice, is available for grief counseling.

Future plans include a memory wall on the hospital's website for remembering deceased pets.

Cat Practice can be reached at 248-540-3390.

Article source: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/lifestyle/pets/Birmingham-Veterinary-hospital-open-first-pet-hospice-center/-/1718840/12513456/-/n6fad1/-/index.html>

Original link: <http://petscarehealth.com/aging-ill-pets-can-get-quality-care/>



# Scratchings & Sniffings

The "Grumpy Old Lady" ... and friends



May 07, 2012

## Pet Hospice Cares for Aging Pets



Couldn't resist sharing this - does your vet do this? Our Grumpy Old Lady approves heartily! (some thoughts from me in parens below)

**Birmingham, Michigan, May 4, 2012** – Pets are living longer, just like people. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when pets get old, develop a serious illness or just need help getting around.

In 2011, **Troy resident Maryann Clark** faced such a decision when her 17-year-old brown tabby cat Rocky was diagnosed with heart disease, and in 2009 when her 16-year-old calico Purrdy developed kidney failure and heart disease. For many pet owners with seriously ill or aging pets, euthanasia has been the only choice. Clark instead wanted her felines to live as long as possible assuming that they were still

active and could enjoy good quality of life.

Clark got her wish at The Cat Practice veterinary hospital in Birmingham where her cats were among the first patients to receive hospice and end-of-life care. Rocky and Purrdy, whose hospice care was chronicled for friends and family on Face book, have since gone on to kitty heaven. And now, The Cat Practice wants to give more pet owners the same choice by opening what is believed to be Michigan's first pet hospice. <Purrdy and Rocky>>>>>>>>>>>>

"Helping your feline friend through a final illness is definitely worth the effort," Clark says. "Especially when they know that the treatments you provide are making them feel better."

The Cat Practice hospice will offer end-of-life care, modeled after human hospice that alleviates physical discomfort and provides a caring end-of-life experience for the pet and the pet's family. Like human hospice, The Cat Practice hospice is for families whose pets face an incurable condition, but can still enjoy quality of life. Instead of *curative* treatment, pets receive *palliative*, or comfort care, that includes medication for pain and discomfort, physical affection, favorite foods and extra time with family members. (love this!)



Pets in the hospice program receive care at home under the direction of The Cat Practice **veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek**. Families are taught how to administer care and have a regular pipeline in to Kramek for guidance and support. They also get reduced pricing on office visits and pet pain medications. **Psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald**, who works with The Cat Practice, is available for grief counseling. Future plans include a memory wall on the hospital's website for remembering deceased pets. (love love love THIS!)

"Cats are living 20 years and more," says Kramek. "Conditions once considered untreatable – kidney failure, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease – can all be managed today. As more pets are viewed as family members, their families are looking for options to euthanasia while their pet still enjoys good quality of life."

To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, ***Caring for Aging Kitties, starting May 16.*** Kramek will speak on Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16 – SOLD OUT – another scheduled for May 23), Making End-of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Greenwald on Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390. (share with your friends in the area)

The Cat Practice cares exclusively for feline patients, but **any pet owner is welcome and will benefit** from the workshops. (my bolding)

The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) says on its website that "Many pet owners welcome the possibility of being able to provide hospice or palliative care for their pets when it is made available." AAHA defines hospice as "A system which provides compassionate comfort care to patients at the end of their lives and also supports their families in the bereavement process."

"Emotionally speaking, losing a pet is not very different than losing anyone else we love," says Dr. Greenwald. "Therefore, having some understanding of the normal grieving process and commonly associated feelings can help people navigate their way through what is a painful but very natural and normal life process."

While The Cat Practice just recently formalized its hospice program, the hospital has been providing clients and their felines with options for end-of-life care for a number of years. In fact, it was clients asking for alternatives that led to the program.

"Pets touch people's lives and hearts in so many ways," says Kramek. "Today, saying good bye can be a time to continue this bond. As long as a pet is comfortable and still enjoys quality of life, pet families have choices and that is what we want to give them."

### **About Laura Kramek**

Kramek is a veterinary hospice nurse and licensed veterinary technician (LVT) with a special interest in geriatric pets, pet hospice and end-of-life care. She works closely with pet families to help them know all of their options. Kramek has been with The Cat Practice since 1993 and is a graduate of Michigan State University. She and her husband live in Dearborn Heights with their two cats Epoisses and Pinot.

### **About Camille Greenwald, PhD.**

Dr. Greenwald is a licensed clinical psychologist. She has been in private practice in Birmingham for 20-plus years, and has served as a consultant at William Beaumont Hospital. She is a graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Detroit and is also a member of the American Psychological Association and the Michigan Psychological Association. Dr. Greenwald, a life-long cat owner, shares her home with her family and three cats: Caspurr, Henry and Bill who is geriatric.

### **About The Cat Practice**

The Cat Practice, Michigan's first cats-only veterinary hospital, opened in 1981. Open seven days a week and evenings, The Cat Practice provides advanced preventative and medical care with an emphasis on early detection to **help cats live longer, better and healthier lives.** Located at 875 South Worth in Birmingham, Michigan, The Cat Practice cares for feline purebred and mixed breeds from around southeastern Michigan. For information go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390.

Original link: <http://www.scratchingsandsniffings.com/2012/05/pet-hospice-cares-for-aging-pets.html#more>



Published May 07 2012 by [CBS Detroit](#)

## Vet Offers End Of Life Choices For Your Cat

[BIRMINGHAM](#) (WWJ) – A [Birmingham](#) vet is offering what is believed to be the first service of its kind in metro [Detroit](#); a hospice for cats.

Dr. Cindy Houlihan at the Cat Practice says with pets living longer than ever before, many owners want to make sure they're doing the best...

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Original link: [http://www.silobreaker.com/vet-offers-end-of-life-choices-for-your-cat-5\\_2265678467926327310](http://www.silobreaker.com/vet-offers-end-of-life-choices-for-your-cat-5_2265678467926327310)

# Cat Practice Develops Hospice Program for Aging Felines

[Full story: Patch.com](#)

For aging relatives, families often turn to hospice care to ensure parents and grandparents with terminal health conditions live out the rest of their lives comfortably and safely.

Original link: <http://www.topix.com/city/troy-mi/2012/05/cat-practice-develops-hospice-program-for-aging-felines>

# World News

## Cats get end-of-life care at pet hospice

[Detroit news](#) 2012-05-04: By [Lauren](#) Abdel-Razzaq [The Detroit News](#) [Comments](#) [Purchase Image](#) Dr. [Cindy](#) Houlihan on Thursday examines [Flash](#), a 12-year-old cat with intestinal cancer who has undergone three weeks of hospice care treatments, at [The Cat Practice](#) in [Birmingham](#). ([Brandy Baker](#) / The Detroit News) Birmingham - When her cat [Rocky](#) was diagnosed with heart disease and diabetes, Maryann [Clark](#) wasn't sure what to do for her beloved pet. [Years](#) earlier, she'd had another cat with a terminal illness. Rocky's diagnosis brought back memories of weekly trips to the veterinarian's office for fluid treatments that had left her cat [Cusum](#) swollen... [more »](#)  
[Read full article](#)

Original link: [http://article.wn.com/view/2012/05/04/Cats\\_get\\_endoflife\\_care\\_at\\_pet\\_hospice](http://article.wn.com/view/2012/05/04/Cats_get_endoflife_care_at_pet_hospice)



## Local

# Vet Offers End Of Life Choices For Your Cat

May 7, 2012 4:53 AM

Share this



Reporting [Sandra McNeill](#)

**BIRMINGHAM (WWJ)** – A Birmingham vet is offering what is believed to be the first service of its kind in metro Detroit; a hospice for cats.

Dr. Cindy Houlihan at the Cat Practice says with pets living longer than ever before, many owners want to make sure they're doing the best they can for their pets at the end of their lives.

“It’s almost like us, if we were approaching the end of our life, what would we want to do – to be happy. There are many things people can do at home with very little cost or no cost,” Houlihan told WWJ’s Sandra McNeill.

Houlihan says that clients were looking for alternatives and options to euthanasia.

On-call nurse Laura Kramek says pet owners usually have one over-riding concern.

“How to know when ... maybe the time that we just can’t do anymore and it helps the people because they feel they have control over the situation, to some degree,” said Kramek.

Pets are more comfortable in their own home being taken care of by their people says Dr. Houlihan.

The average time in hospice is three months and Houlihan says it’s really not that expensive.

The service also includes discount pain medication and daycare.

Original link: <http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2012/05/07/end-of-life-choices-for-your-pet/>





## **Birmingham veterinary hospital addresses pet end-of-life choices in workshop series starting**

May 16

When Wednesday, May 16, 6pm – Wednesday, June 27, 2012, 6pm

[The Cat Practice](#)

Where

[875 S. Worth](#)

[Birmingham, MI 48009](#)

To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, Caring for Aging Kitties, starting May 16. The series is part of a new hospice program being offered by The Cat Practice. Topics include: Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16), Making End- of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Speakers are veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek and psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald. Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390.

Note

Link [www.thecatpracticepc.com...](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com...)

Original link: [http://www.wxyz.com/subindex/entertainment/around\\_town#/?i=8](http://www.wxyz.com/subindex/entertainment/around_town#/?i=8)



Birmingham veterinary hospital addresses pet end-of-life choices in workshop series starting May 16 [Buy Tickets](#)

Wednesday May 16, 2012 - Wednesday June 27, 2012 from 6:00pm - 7:00pm

[The Cat Practice](#)

875 S. Worth

Birmingham, Michigan 48009 [Get Directions](#)

Birmingham Michigan, May 1, 2012 – Pets are living longer, just like people, due to better nutrition and advancements in medical care. But for pet families, this means facing sometimes difficult end-of-life decisions when Fluffy or Fido get old, have a serious illness or just need help getting around.

To help pet owners prepare for caring for an aging pet, The Cat Practice will hold a four-part workshop series, Caring for Aging Kitties, starting May 16. The series is part of a new hospice program being offered by The Cat Practice. Topics include: Caring for Geriatric Cats (May 16), Making End- of-Life Decisions (May 30) and Pet Hospice Care (June 13), and Pet Loss and Grieving (June 27). Speakers are veterinary hospice nurse Laura Kramek and psychologist Dr. Camille Greenwald. Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to The Cat Practice's Rufus Memorial Feline Fund for cats in need. To register, go to [www.thecatpracticepc.com](http://www.thecatpracticepc.com) or call 248-540-3390.

While The Cat Practice cares exclusively for feline patients, any pet owner is welcome and will benefit from the workshops.

“We are seeing cats living 20 years and more,” says Kramek. “Conditions once considered untreatable – kidney failure, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disease – can all be managed today. As more pets are being viewed as family members, their families are looking for alternatives to euthanasia while their pet still enjoys good quality of life.”

Ticket Info: Donation is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for the series with proceeds going to Rufus Memorial Fund

[Buy Tickets](#)

Website: <http://www.thecatpracticepc.com/>

Original link: <http://upcoming.yahoo.com/event/8837028/MI/Birmingham/Birmingham-veterinary-hospital-addresses-pet-end-of-life-choices-in-workshop-series-starting-May-16/The-Cat-Practice/>