

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 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 or call 248-540-3390.

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