



# Hospice & End of Life Care

## Hospice Plan for Home Care

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Caregiver: \_\_\_\_\_



Please refer to this plan in providing home care to your pet. The Cat Practice is here for you 7 days a week to answer your questions, make any adjustments to this plan that might be needed, and to provide emotional support. Please contact us at any time. – Laura Kramek, LVT, Veterinary Hospice Nurse / 248-540-3390

### NUTRITION

Special foods: \_\_\_\_\_

**We recommend:** Give kitty anything that he or she will eat. This includes table food, human foods like beef or chicken and human baby food. Stop any foods that cause diarrhea or vomiting (which can sometimes occur as a result of drinking milk or cream.) Some cats prefer their food served in an elevated bowl so they don't have to stoop down.

### FLUID INTAKE

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

**We recommend:** It's important to keep your kitty hydrated. Give your cat tuna water (from cans of water-packed tuna fish), low-salt chicken broth and *Cat-sip* (a lactose-free milk available at most pet supplies stores). To encourage fluid intake, you may also want to try a water fountain and/or extra water dishes around the house where your kitty is most likely to travel. Also try changing the type of water container – some cats like to drink out of human beverage glasses; most cats prefer glass, ceramic or stainless steel water bowls. Some cats prefer their water served in an elevated bowl so they don't have to stoop down.

### PALLIATIVE CARE (to alleviate symptoms)

Medication : \_\_\_\_\_

Special instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

**We recommend:** Use alternative forms of medications to make giving them to kitty easier. Many medications can be compounded into a cream that is rubbed onto the less furry area of your kitty's ear. If hydration therapy is part of your cat's care, many medications can also be administered through the IV line at the same time that you are giving subcutaneous (under the skin) fluids. There are also many creative ways to make giving medication easier and less stressful to both you and your cat. Please ask us for help at any time.



875 S. Worth, Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-540-3390 • thecatpracticepc.com

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### ENVIRONMENT

Sleeping place: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**We recommend:** Provide multiple litter boxes that are easily accessible and in different locations around the house, close to where kitty sleeps and on each floor of the house. Include litter boxes with low sides to enable easier access. Enrich your kitty's environment by making it easy for him or her to view the outdoors and observe birds and nature. Invite friends over to provide play time and consider a pet stroller to take kitty for walks.



### ELIMINATION

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

**We recommend:** Monitor litter box use. Observe your cat's stools which should be long like a cigar and not little hard nuggets which can be a symptom of constipation or indicate that kitty is not taking the time to eliminate due to discomfort in squatting. Diapers and/or wee-wee pads placed around the litter box can help keep the area clean and dry.

### HYGIENE

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

**We recommend:** Staying clean is an important part of a cat's comfort and well-being. Wipe your kitty's face with a damp cloth. Also keep him or her brushed. These activities, remindful of a mother cat's care, will have a loving and calming effect on your cat.

### FOR THE CAREGIVER

Losing a pet is a difficult time for many families. Please visit us anytime just to talk or for emotional support. For help with the grieving process, contact Laura Kramek, LVT, Veterinary Hospice Nurse at 248-540-3390 who will put you in touch with a grief counselor.

### CELEBRATE YOUR PET'S LIFE

Post a tribute to your pet – coming soon on our website.