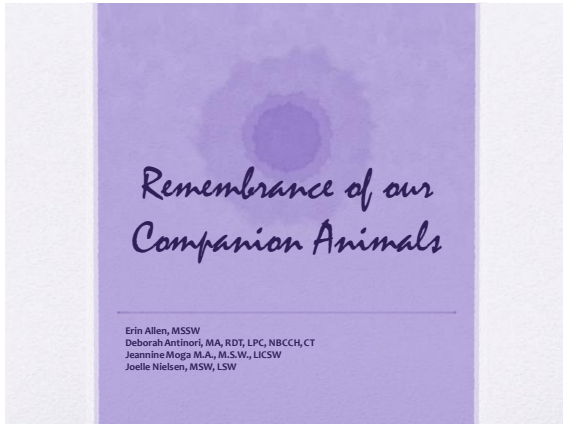


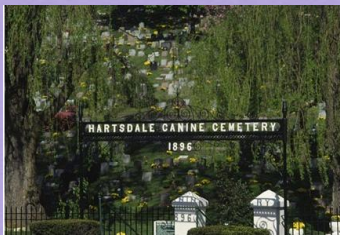


History of Memorial Rituals

- Memorial rituals are practiced in every known culture, and consistently serve to mark death as a 'rite of passage'
- Evidence suggests that burial rites have been practiced for animals (primarily dogs and cats) for 14,000 years



Rituals around death and dying have waned in western society since the beginning of the 20th century



http://www.petcem.com/_images/hss01frontgate.jpg

Cross-Cultural Functions of Memorialization

- To honor and remember ancestors
- To help the deceased transition through "liminal space" and achieve a happy afterlife
- To ask the deceased for protection
- To make meaning out of life, death, and relationships
- To facilitate an ongoing relationship with the deceased



Memorial Rituals

- Private: meaning making for individuals/ immediate families; may involve remains care and dedications to/communication with the deceased



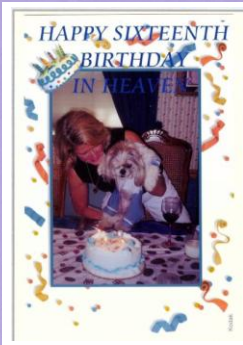
Shelby Davidson
1997 - 2008



Although Barry and I are devastated and our grief overwhelming, it gives us solace that our beautiful little girl isn't sick anymore.

Shelby's in Heaven, healthy, happy and safe. She's barking at the wind and chasing butterflies.

Barry and I will cherish the wonderful moments we had with Shelby and am grateful she was a part of our lives. We will love Shelby forever.



September 16th is Danni's sixteenth birthday. Anticipating feeling sad and really missing him at this time, I decided to throw him a party, as I always did, and celebrate the wonderful life that we shared. I am inviting a small number of friends to celebrate Danni on his special day. Because of Danni, this party will be those in the past, is truly long-time friends. If possible, I would love you to join me in celebrating the happy life of a very special little boy. Hope you can make it. Love, Danni.

Memorial Rituals

- Public: validates grief by making memorialization a group activity; facilitates social connection and resilience



Honoring/Remembering

- When organizing a public event, be mindful of cultural/religious diversity of the participants
 - Involve rituals or readings from different cultures
 - Acknowledge and welcome diversity
 - Non-denominational ceremony
- The ways to memorialize our companion animals are as varied as each one of us.









Shared Resources

- Contact Joelle
- joelle.nielsen@cvm.osu.edu
- 614-746-0138
