



## **Pet Loss Support Group - An Alberta Society**

Box 335, 10816 Macleod Trail, S.W. Calgary, Alberta, T2J 5N8

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

### **RE: Dissolution of the Pet Loss Support Group of Calgary**

After lengthy review and discussion, the Board of Directors of the Pet Loss Support Group has made the decision to dissolve our society by year-end 2008. In addition, the 2008 membership fees have been waived for the balance of the year. We will, however, continue to provide telephone support, newsletters, and sale of resource materials for the remainder of 2008.

Our decision to dissolve the group was based upon a review of our own statistics which clearly indicated a steady decline in support group participants and support calls over the last few years. Upon completing our internal review the Board also conducted a survey of similar support groups in Canada and the US and learned that many of the groups we contacted were experiencing similar trends. These trends would seem to indicate that the Pet Loss Support Group has achieved its mandate to provide emotional and compassionate support to grieving pet owners and to educate others in our society on the importance of the grieving process for the family pet.

Family, friends and even coworkers are now more sensitive to the animal companion bond and reach out to grieving pet owners. Veterinarians and clinic staff also realize the importance of this bond and, in many cases, provide comfort rooms and quiet areas for the family where they can have closure and time to grieve. Other comforts provided to the grieving family ranges from "paw prints" to the "lighting of candles" and memorial donations and cards. The internet also provides numerous helpful sites with respect to the loss of a pet, from dealing with the process of grieving, to tribute sites and memorial products.

We are happy that we were instrumental in being a source of information on pet loss and grieving through various newspaper articles, interviews, and resource materials, and by validating the grief a person feels towards their deceased companion animal.

The Rainbow Garden Memorial Wall is sold out and the tiles will be placed on the wall shortly. We hope that you will be able to join us later this year to celebrate the Pet Loss Support Group and the unveiling of the Garden. Invitations to the party celebrating the unveiling will be mailed to both the membership and tile purchasers shortly.

Although the decision to dissolve was difficult and sad, we now celebrate our achievements. The Board of the Pet Loss Support Group wishes to thank you for your support and loyalty throughout the years. Your continued allegiance, donations and membership helped us to reach our goals.

Sincerely,

**THE PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP**

Laura Hunt  
President

Kate Currey  
Past President