A SMALL COMPANION FOR A HARD GOODBYE

The Pet Loss Comfort Pack

Words for the days when you miss them most

by SoulNest Pets · aipetnest.com

Print it, keep it by the bed, or send it to someone whose house has gone quiet.

Words for Your Own Heart

For the quiet moments — read one a day, or all of them on the hardest night.

> *“They leave paw prints on our hearts that never fade.”*

> *“Gone from our home, never from our hearts.”*

> *“The love of a pet is never lost. It just changes shape.”*

> *“You were my favourite hello and my hardest goodbye.”*

> *“Grief is just love with nowhere to go — so we keep it, and we carry them with us.”*

> *“Short lives, fully loved. That is not a small thing.”*

> *“Some angels choose fur instead of wings.”*

> *“A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.”*
>
> — often attributed to Josh Billings

> *“He took a piece of my heart with him, and left a piece of his behind.”*

> *“What we have once enjoyed deeply we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”*
>
> — Helen Keller

> *“Time spent with a cat is never wasted.”*
>
> — Sigmund Freud

> *“Wait for me at the Bridge. I will find you.”*

What to Write in a Sympathy Card

Borrow these freely. Replace the name in brackets, add one true detail of your own, and the card becomes one they keep.

HEARTFELT

I am so sorry about [pet's name]. They were one of the good ones, and I know how big a space they filled in your life.

You gave [pet's name] the kind of life every pet deserves. I hope that brings you a little comfort on the hard days.

I hope you can take comfort in this: [pet's name] spent their whole life exactly where they wanted to be — with you.

The love of a good dog is one of the purest things in life. You were lucky to have [pet's name], and they were luckier to have you.

A cat chooses their person, and [pet's name] chose you with their whole heart. I am so sorry.

May you take comfort in knowing [pet's name] spent their life warm, fed, safe, and loved — the whole dream, for a cat.

[Pet's name] knew they were loved every day of their life. That is because of you.

SHORT & SIMPLE

Thinking of you today. [Pet's name] was so loved.

No words, just love. Here whenever you need me.

Grief this deep means love that deep. Thinking of you.

Run free, [pet’s name]. You were so loved here.

FOR A CLOSE FRIEND

No words fix this, but please know I am thinking of you and of [pet’s name] — and I am not going anywhere.

I am here — for tears, for stories, for silence. Whatever you need.

[Pet’s name] had a way of picking their favourite person in a room, and it was always you. Everyone could see it.

Call me at 2 a.m. if the house feels too quiet. I mean that.

What to Say — and What Not to Say

When someone loses a pet, saying something imperfectly beats saying nothing at all. These small choices make the difference.

WORDS THAT HELP

Say their name. Using the pet's name proves they mattered — to you, and to the world beyond one household.

"Tell me about her." Grieving owners are usually full of stories and short of listeners. Ask for one — the funniest thing she did, how they met.

"You did right by him." Almost every owner carries a splinter of doubt about the final decisions. Hearing, out loud, that they were a good owner can be the most healing sentence there is.

Share a memory of your own. Even a tiny one — a greeting at the fence, a legendary food theft — tells them their pet is remembered by more people than just them.

Promise a later check-in, and keep it. Support floods in for three days and then vanishes. Saying "I'll check in next week too" — and doing it — is worth more than flowers.

Add "no need to reply." It takes the pressure off someone who has nothing left to give, and lets your message be pure comfort.

WORDS THAT QUIETLY HURT

"It was just a dog / just a cat." To the owner it was family, routine, and daily companionship — sometimes for a decade or more.

"You can get another one." Pets are not replaceable objects. In the first days, this tells the owner their grief is an overreaction.

"At least she's not suffering." It may be true, but in the raw first days it rushes a person past a feeling they need to sit in. Timing is everything.

"I know exactly how you feel." You may know pet loss, but not this pet and this bond. Sharing your own loss gently is kinder than claiming theirs.

Questions about the end. "Did the vet try everything?" or "Why didn't you notice sooner?" can plant guilt in someone already replaying every decision.

Silence. The well-meant words that never arrive are the ones grieving people remember. A short, honest message today beats a perfect one next month.

A Small Ritual for Tonight

No rules, nothing to get right — just a quiet way to mark the day and say the unsaid things. Take ten minutes, or take an hour.

1. **Choose a quiet moment**

   When the house has settled, dim the lights in the room where they liked to rest. Put your phone in another room. This time belongs to the two of you.

2. **Light a candle**

   Place a candle somewhere safe and light it. Let it stand for their presence in the house — small, warm, and still here in the way that matters.

3. **Set out a photo, and something that was theirs**

   A favourite photograph, and beside it a collar, a toy, or the blanket that still smells faintly of them. Looking is allowed to hurt. It is also allowed to make you smile.

4. **Write them a short letter**

   On paper, in your own handwriting if you can. Thank them for specific things — the morning routine, the welcome at the door, the hard year they sat beside you through. Say the thing you didn’t get to say. There is no wrong sentence in this letter.

5. **Say their name, then rest**

   Read the letter aloud or in silence, say their name once, and sit a little longer with the candle. When you are ready, blow it out gently — not as an ending, just as a goodnight. Keep the letter somewhere safe; some people read it again on the anniversary, some never do. Both are fine.

You can repeat this on the hard dates — the birthday, the adoption day, the first holiday with an empty spot — or never again. A ritual is a tool, not an obligation.

When You’re Ready

There is no hurry for this page, and it will keep. When — if — the day comes that you would like something of them to hold again, SoulNest Pets creates handmade needle-felted replicas of beloved pets, sculpted in wool from your photographs. Each piece is made to order by hand over 3–6 weeks and shipped worldwide, so the likeness that comes home is unmistakably, specifically yours. There are no public prices: you simply send a few photos for a gentle review, and we reply with a private quote on WhatsApp at +1 435-549-0381. Until then, keep the photos close and take all the time it actually takes.

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