

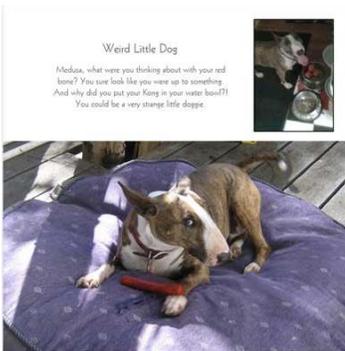


Ways to Memorialize a Pet

While cherished memories remain in our hearts forever, sometimes people like a physical item to memorialize a beloved pet. Below are just a few ideas of things to buy or do, from artwork to jewelry to permanent ink. There are countless websites where you can order items, from chain stores to Etsy shops.

Photographic memories

- There are many things that can be done with the doubtless many pictures you have of your pet. Many different companies print a photo book that you can fill with images, as well as stories – funny things he did, all her many nicknames or who his favorite furry friends were.



- You can also go smaller scale and get a personalized frame for your absolutely favorite photo. Either way, it can be customized to make it truly a one-of-a-kind item – just like your pet.

- Consider a customized mug, pillow, or blanket with a photo. It's not the same as holding the real deal, but it may give you a bit of comfort.

Artwork in various mediums

- Urns are very common, often in the form of a lovely vase or wooden box. Over the years it has become more common to keep the ashes of a beloved pet, to create different memorial items, such as jewelry, or even custom artwork.
- Commission a painting of your pet.
- Another form of remembrance is a custom-made stuffed animal made in your pet's likeness.*



♥ marks the spot

- Decorate a dedicated area in your home with photos, ID tags, or favorite toys. You can also get a paw print mold and display that as part of the tribute.
- That special spot can also be outdoors. Some garden options include a marker in the shape of your



pet to put under a favorite sunning spot, or perhaps a stepping stone with the name of your pet with its likeness engraved. Another option is a memorial stone dedicated to all your pets that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. If your garden is large enough, you could include a bench or a statue of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, as a place to sit and reminisce about your pet.



Wearable remembrances

- There are many different ways jewelry can include part of your pet. Technology now makes it possible to turn ashes into a diamond. Older options include creating jewelry with your cat's nose or paw print on it or wearing a locket with your dog's photo or a tuft of fur, perhaps even engraved with his name.
- This isn't for everyone, but another way to memorialize a pet is perhaps the ultimate artwork – a tattoo. The ink can include portraits, paw prints, or your pet's name.



* Photo courtesy Facci Designs