

WHEN IS IT TIME?

A compassionate guide to end-of-life decisions for your pet.

Supporting you every step of the way.



Eco-friendly,
dignified farewells

There is rarely a perfect time

Many pet owners wait for certainty about the right time to choose euthanasia for their pet.

Unfortunately, this decision is rarely about finding the perfect day.

It is about recognising when your pet's quality of life is no longer what it once was and acting from a place of compassion.



Understanding quality of life

Ask yourself:

Is my pet comfortable most of the day?

Are they eating willingly?

Do they still enjoy affection?

Do they still enjoy activities they once loved?

Are good days becoming less frequent?

**Is my pet still experiencing
a good quality of life?**



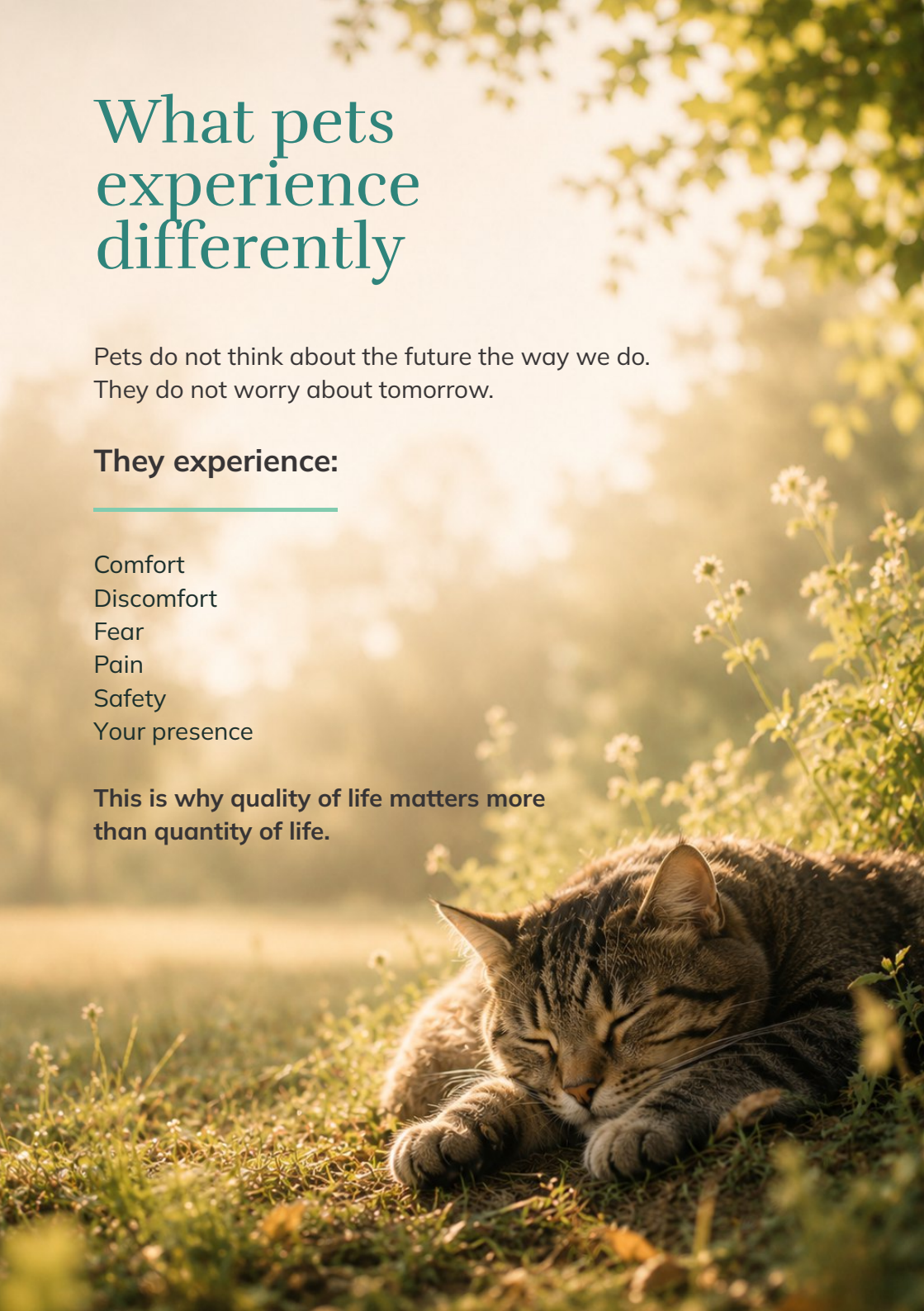
What pets experience differently

Pets do not think about the future the way we do.
They do not worry about tomorrow.

They experience:

Comfort
Discomfort
Fear
Pain
Safety
Your presence

**This is why quality of life matters more
than quantity of life.**



Signs that it may be time

Physical changes:

- Difficulty standing
- Difficulty walking
- Frequent falls
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Chronic pain
- Laboured breathing
- Incontinence
- Confusion or disorientation

Emotional changes:

- Withdrawal
- Anxiety
- Restlessness
- Loss of interest in favourite activities
- Loss of interest in family interaction
- Changes in personality
- Sudden, unexpected aggression



The one more good day dilemma

One of the most common reasons owners delay euthanasia is the hope for one more good day.

While this feeling is completely understandable, it can sometimes mean your pet experiences suffering that cannot be reversed.

A useful question is:

**Are we extending life,
or extending suffering?**



It is normal to feel unsure

Many loving pet owners ask:
What if I am too early?
What if I wait too long?
What if I make the wrong decision?

These thoughts are normal.
The weight of the decision often reflects
the depth of your bond.

**This decision is never easy,
even when it is the right one.**

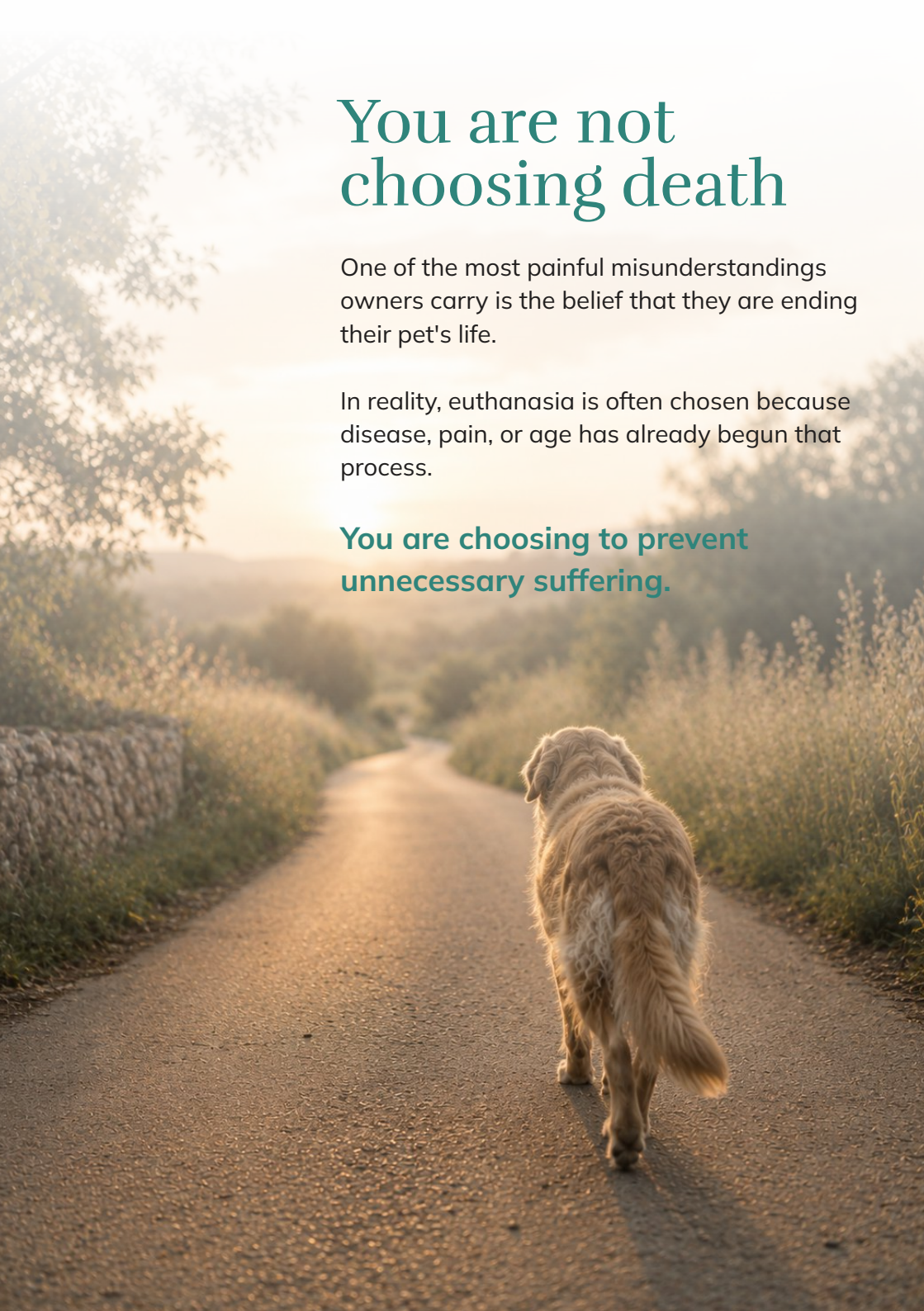


You are not choosing death

One of the most painful misunderstandings owners carry is the belief that they are ending their pet's life.

In reality, euthanasia is often chosen because disease, pain, or age has already begun that process.

You are choosing to prevent unnecessary suffering.



What your pet would want

Your pet has trusted you throughout their life.

They trust you now.

Not because the decision is easy.

But because you know them better than anyone else.

Your responsibility is not to keep them alive at all costs.

Your responsibility is to protect their well-being.



Being present calms

Many owners worry they will not be strong enough.

What pets need most is familiarity:

Your voice, your touch, your scent, your presence.

Being there helps your pet feel safe, not abandoned, and calm while unfamiliar people are around.

Watching the process carried out with dignity and respect can also bring you acceptance and closure.

If your pet is suffering, euthanasia is a final act of compassion. It relieves their pain and gives them the greatest gift of all: **peace.**



Understanding guilt and grief

Guilt is one of the most common emotions after euthanasia.

It is also one of the most misunderstood.

Guilt is a normal part of grief. It does not mean you made the wrong decision.

Many families experience grief and relief at the same time.

Both are normal.



Love sometimes looks like letting go

For many families, euthanasia is the final act of protection they can offer.

You gave your pet safety.

You gave your pet comfort.

You gave your pet companionship.

You gave your pet love.

And when the time came, you placed their needs before your own heartache.

You gave them a lifetime of love. **This is one final act of it.**





Eco-friendly,
dignified farewells

You do not have to navigate this alone.

EarthPet is here to support you and your beloved companion
with dignity, compassion and care.

- In-Home Euthanasia
- Compassionate Guidance
- Grief & Bereavement Support
- Bio-Burial & Cremation
- Return of Compost or Ashes
- Memorial Keepsakes

Every pet deserves compassionate
care, even beyond clinic hours

 +27 66 597 4147

www.earthpet.co.za

