

After the loss of your companion animal, you may notice your surviving pets grieving, too. Grief in pets can be displayed in various forms, such as:

- Anxiety, restlessness, or a need to stay closer to the owner

- Acting withdrawn or despondent

- Changes in eating, drinking, sleeping, or exercise habits

- Depression, heavy sighing, or disinterest in usual activities

- Personality changes,

his/her deceased pet friend just as it does with people, so allow for the time and space to do that.

8. Pets who stop improving, take a step backward, or develop symptoms like persistent loss of appetite, vomiting, or diarrhea that are typically associated with physical illness should be evaluated by a veterinarian. Sometimes the stress caused by the loss of a companion animal can bring about serious health issues that need to be addressed. Also, if your pets show signs of separation anxiety or depression that do not improve on their own, contact your veterinarian.

The loss of a pet is a difficult time for your entire household. However, remembering to provide comfort and support to your four-footed family members during this time can help aid the grieving process and promote healing for the whole family.

LSU School of Veterinary Medicine
Best Friend Gone Project
lsu.edu/vetmed

The information above is from *The Practical Guide to Client Grief: Support Techniques for 15 Common Situations* by Laurel Lagoni, MS (1997) by AAHA Press; [How the Loss of a Pet Affects Your Other Pets](#) by Jean Marie Bauhaus (2018); and, [5 Tips to Help Pets Deal with Grief](#) by Jennifer Coates, DVM (2017).