



Pets and Positive Ageing Inc warmly invites you to attend

“ Supporting older pet owners through pet bereavement ”

A session presented by Dr David Foote

Veterinarian, lecturer and pet bereavement counsellor and Program Director, Intern Mentoring Program, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney

Hosted by Mary Porter AM MLA

Thursday 18 June 2015 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Reception Room, Legislative Assembly Building, Civic Square, Canberra

RSVP by 16 June 2015 on djohnstone@bigpond.com or 0427975500

Many older Australian own pets and older pet owners enjoy very significant benefits and great comfort living with their pets. However at the end of a pet's life, as with all pet owners, older pet owners will face pet bereavement. They may need special assistance to cope with this difficult period in their lives.

This session will explore the important relationship we have with our pets. It will address the grief surrounding the loss of a beloved pet. It will also address coping strategies for pet owners, and those close to them, through this period, with a special emphasis on issues for older pet owners – in care environments and in the wider community. It will look at ways to better support and assist older pet owners.

The session is free but places are limited and bookings are essential.

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Session Program

- 14:00 - 14:05 *“Welcome to the session”- Host, Mary Porter AM MLA*
- 14:05 - 14:10 *“Introduction” - Jan Phillips, President, Pets and Positive Ageing Inc*
- 14:10 - 14:55 *“Pet bereavement for older pet owners: the human animal bond and grief” - Dr David Foote, veterinarian, lecturer and pet bereavement counsellor.*
- 14:55 - 15:10 *Break - Tea and coffee*
- 15:10 - 16:00 *“Pet bereavement for older pet owners: how best to help” - Dr David Foote, veterinarian, lecturer and pet bereavement counsellor.*
- 16:00 - 16:10 *Break*
- 16:10 - 16:40 *Question and answer session with Dr David Foote, Chaired by Mary Porter AM MLA*
- 16:40 - 16:50 *“Supporting older pet owners: next steps” - Jan Phillips, President, Pets and Positive Ageing Inc*
- 16:50 - 17:00 *Wrap up and Close*

Information on key speaker: Dr David Foote

Dr David Foote is a veterinarian, university lecturer and counsellor who has a special interest in the human animal bond and pet bereavement. After graduating from the University of Queensland in 1980 he spent 20 years in small animal practice in Australia and the United Kingdom before pursuing a long-held interest in counselling by training and working with Lifeline as a counsellor for three years (1999 – 2001).

Since 2001, Dr Foote has run his own consultancy based in Sydney offering pet bereavement counselling and support to the veterinary profession and other organisations through educational seminars and workshops on the human animal bond and grief. Dr Foote has been teaching in his fields of interest at the University of Sydney since 2002 and been the Director of its Intern Mentoring Program since 2009. He also has an interest in stress and burnout in veterinarians and offers individual and organisational support aimed at managing stress, developing resilience and fostering wellbeing.