

Escanaba Veterinary Clinic Home Burial Guidelines for Your Pet (Michigan)

We understand how meaningful it can be to lay your pet to rest at home. If you choose home burial, Michigan regulations provide guidelines to protect the environment and local water sources. The following information applies to individual pet burial from a small animal practice.

Michigan Burial Requirements

- Pets must be buried or otherwise properly disposed of within 24 hours of death.
- The entire body must be covered with at least 2 feet of soil.
- The burial site must be at least 200 feet from any groundwater well.
- Burial sites cannot be within 1 mile of another residence unless it is your own property.
- The grave must not contact surface water or groundwater (avoid areas that flood or collect water).

Helpful Burial Suggestions

- Choose a location on high, well-drained ground.
- Wrap your pet in a biodegradable blanket, towel, cardboard box, or wooden container.
- Dig the grave deep enough to allow at least 2 feet of soil covering your pet.
- A memorial stone, plant, or marker can help create a lasting tribute.

Winter Burial Considerations (Upper Michigan)

- Frozen ground may make digging difficult. If burial is not immediately possible, keep your pet in a cool protected location such as an unheated garage or shed until the ground can be dug.
- Some families temporarily place their pet in a sealed container or wrapped securely and store them in a cold, protected location until burial is possible.
- If burial must be delayed, please consider cremation options.
- When burial occurs, ensure the grave still provides at least 2 feet of soil cover.

Important Safety Note for Pets Euthanized at the Clinic

Pets euthanized at the clinic receive a medication called pentobarbital. This medication remains in the body after death and can be harmful to wildlife, scavengers, or other pets if they gain access to the remains.

- Ensure the grave is deep enough (minimum 2 feet of soil cover).
- Place your pet in a secure biodegradable container or wrapping.
- Avoid burial locations where wild animals may dig.
- If you have concerns about burial safety, please discuss alternative aftercare options with our team.

We are very sorry for your loss. If you have questions about burial guidelines, cremation, or memorial options, please contact **Escanaba Veterinary Clinic**. Our team is here to support you.