END OF LIFE PLANNING

Modified by Dignipets for veterinary teams. Originally published by Kagawa-Singer, M., & Backhall, L. (2001). Negotiating cross-cultural issue at end of life. Journal of Medical Association, 286(3001),2993.

ABCDE Framework

A - ATTITUDES

- Views on discussing end-of-life care within the faith group
- Positive or negative responses to specific aspects of care
- How cultural attitudes influence planning around inevitable death
- Preferences for treatment

B - BELIEFS

- Perspectives on death, dying, afterlife, and mourning
- Beliefs surrounding pet death vs human death
- Coping mechanisms during spiritual distress
- E.g. heartbeat and breath as indicators of life
- Preferences for aftercare

C - CONTEXT

- Place of birth and preferred language for sensitive discussions
- Level of assimilation into Western culture and medical systems
- Previous experiences with veterinary care and pet loss

D - DECISION MAKING STYLE

- Who is responsible for making end-of-life decisions
- Faith-based definitions of 'life' and implications for pet care
- Role of spiritual leaders in the decision-making process
- Navigating the line between prolonging life and accepting death

E - ENVIRONMENT

- Identify supportive resources: (faith leaders, forums)
- Incorporate interpreters or native speakers as needed
- Allow adequate time to process through a cultural lens
- Use accessible channels (email) for sensitive communication
- Define realistic timeframes for decision-making

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