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

- Carers believe a being should pass at home; Stitch should be euthanised at home
- Preferred location: entrance to the home or Stitch's room
- Cultural requirement: Stitch's head should be facing East at time of passing

B - BELIEFS

- Death is viewed as a transition, not an end
- Stitch is believed to be journeying to Naraka, a temporary place of judgment in Hindu belief
- Post-mortem ritual: placing rice in Stitch's mouth to sustain him on this spiritual journey

C - CONTEXT

Both owners are practicing Hindus

- This is their first experience with pet euthanasia
- Brought up in the UK and familiar with mercy killing practices in Western veterinary care

D - DECISION MAKING STYLE

Carers are mindful of karmic consequences of euthanasia

- Are they alleviating Stitch's suffering, or disrupting a karmic lesson?
- Ultimately accept that Stitch is suffering and in pain, and do not wish for continued discomfort

E - ENVIRONMENT

- Stitch is loved by the whole family so the vet and nurse on duty send a full report via email
- It was agreed that whilst Stitch was on supportive home care providing his QOL stayed acceptable a visit for home euthanasia was planned in 2 days

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