



## **Pet Loss & Grief Specialist Course**

**Instructor: Animal Talks Director Kaleel Sakakeeny,  
Credentialed Pet Grief Counselor and Animal Chaplain**

**BEGINS AUGUST 2025 • SPACE IS LIMITED!  
8 WEEKS • COST: \$275 • QUESTIONS?**

**Participants will earn a Certified Pet Loss & Grief Specialist credential, equipping them with the skills to compassionately support grieving pet parents and promote healing.**

---

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

*Subject to change*

#### **Module 1: Introduction to Pet Grief & Loss**

- Understanding the Human-Animal Bond
- Emotional Impact of Pet Loss
- Common Misconceptions About Pet Grief
- Readings

#### **Module 2: Stages & Expressions of Grief**

- The Stages of Grief Applied to Pet Loss
- Recognizing Different Grieving Styles
- Coping Mechanisms & Healing Strategies

#### **Module 3: Providing Compassionate Support**

- Active Listening & Communication Skills
- Creating a Safe Space for Pet Owners
- Cultural & Religious Considerations in Pet Grief
- Review of actual case studies

#### **Module 4: Pet Memorialization & Rituals**

- Personalized Memorial Ideas
- The Role of Rituals in Healing
- Writing Eulogies & Tribute Messages
- Suggest and Design Actual Memorial/Life Ceremony

*...continued on page 2 —>*

## **Module 5: Helping Special Populations**

- Supporting Children in Pet Loss
- Assisting Seniors Through Grief
- Addressing Grief in Veterinary Professionals
- Additional Case Studies

## **Module 6: Ethical Considerations & Self-Care**

- Boundaries & Professional Ethics
- Avoiding Compassion Fatigue
- Self-Care Practices for Grief Support Providers

## **Module 7: Practical Applications & Certification**

- Case Studies & Real-World Scenarios
- Final Assessment & Certification Exam
- Continuing Education & Professional Growth
- Live Grief Counseling Session Required

---

### **SAMPLE READING LIST**

Losing a pet can be incredibly painful, and finding the right book can help with processing grief and healing. Here are a few books on pet grief that we will use in one form or another in the course.

Those marked with a \* are especially relevant.

- 1. *The Pet Loss Companion: Healing Advice from Family Therapists Who Lead Pet Loss Groups*** – Ken Dolan-Del Vecchio & Nancy Saxton-Lopez
  - Written by therapists who have guided countless people through pet loss, this book offers compassionate advice, coping strategies, and real-life stories to help you through the grieving process.
- 2. *Goodbye, Friend: Healing Wisdom for Anyone Who Has Ever Lost a Pet\**** – Gary Kowalski
  - A heartfelt guide that provides emotional support, rituals for healing, and reflections on the deep bond between humans and their pets.
- 3. *When Your Pet Dies: A Guide to Mourning, Remembering and Healing\**** – Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D.
  - Dr. Wolfelt, a well-known grief counselor, explores the unique pain of losing a pet and offers gentle guidance on how to grieve, remember, and move forward. Alternatively, *The Six Needs of Mourners*
- 4. *Signs from Pets in the Afterlife: Identifying Messages from Pets in Heaven*** – Lyn Ragan
  - For those who believe in spiritual connections, this book explores the possibility of receiving signs from pets after they pass, bringing comfort and hope.
- 5. *Losing My Best Friend: Thoughtful Support for Those Affected by Dog Bereavement or Cat Bereavement*** – Jeannie Wycherley
  - A sensitive and insightful book that helps pet owners understand their grief, find ways to remember their beloved companion, and navigate the emotional journey of loss.
- 6. *A Journey Through Pet Loss (e-Book)\**** – Rev. Kaleel Sakakeeny

*“Kaleel’s slim but important book is right from the heart... it’s pure emotion combined with helpful, hopeful guidance.”* – Maria G.

---

## Who We Are

Animal Talks, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and leader in the emerging field of Pet Grief, the body and mind's response to the death of a deeply loved pet.

You can read what the media say about our work at:

[www.animaltalksinc.com/in-the-news](http://www.animaltalksinc.com/in-the-news)

and get to know us, who we are, how we work and what we stand for at:

[www.animaltalksinc.com](http://www.animaltalksinc.com)

Please contact me with questions:

Kaleel Sakakeeny [kaleel@animaltalksinc.com](mailto:kaleel@animaltalksinc.com)

*We look forward to working with you!*



---

*"We are drawn to those who listen to us and care about our story"*

— KARL MENNINGER