

# 2019

## Closing words by Joan Pape

*Remembering Our Pets*  
*Sunday September 8th, 2019*  
*12pm noon at Olin Park Shelter*

1156 Olin-Turville Court Madison  
by John Nolen Drive

*Join us as we celebrate the pets in our lives  
both past and present. We will have a short  
memorial ceremony, light refreshments, and a  
commemorative pet tribute.*

*This event is free and open to all pet lovers.*

*Visit [www.journeypet.com](http://www.journeypet.com)*

*for more information*



Joan Pape

Wellness By Intention LLC

Animals are great listeners. They seem to be able to understand what we are saying when we talk to them, and they don't argue back. They don't judge us, and they don't hold a grudge. I believe we share our lives with animals so we can learn what they came to teach us . . .

- to love unconditionally - to care about others,
- to remember to be curious and playful, - to remember to snuggle with our loved ones,
- to begin each day anew knowing that our needs will be met.

Animals are never pretentious. They don't come into our lives with expectations. Their role in our lives is unique in that our relationship with them is pure, and uninhibited by human ways of interaction.

Our animal companions touch us and connect with us in our very core. We connect on a soul level. Regardless of your religious beliefs, you cannot deny that we all are living, breathing beings. We have a life force. Our animals' life force connects to our life force in ways that simply aren't possible with another human being. Humans have expectations in relationships that animals do not have.

There truly is nothing more beautiful in life than the relationship we have with our pets for they are a window to our own soul. The relationship we share with our animals points to our capacity and our willingness to give and receive love. Those relationships give us the opportunity to choose joy – every day - to celebrate and live our lives to the fullest.

We all feel the loss of an animal companion deeply. It doesn't matter if it happened yesterday, last month, or years ago. It doesn't matter if this is the first pet you've lost, or the fifth, or the twentieth. It is important that we took the time to memorialize those we have lost. We celebrated their lifetimes and their transitions, and we shared with others who understand our pain.

We opened our hearts, our minds and our souls to this experience and expressed our joy for the gift of relationship we shared with our animal companion. We reflected this truth for one another. This gathering gave us all an opportunity to take a break from the rhythm of our daily lives and invite our hearts and our souls to absorb the fullness of ceremony and to speak to the soul.

It was important and valuable for you to be here today; sharing your grief with others who know and understand what you are feeling. Too often we suppress these powerful

emotions because of the lack of public support. We are shamed or insulted because some folks just can't comprehend the bond we have with our animal family. Only you can know how you feel and how you can move forward into a new kind of normal.

We really don't need the latest scientific study that labels our bond as "Secure base effect" which implies the relationship is much like that of a parent and child. We don't need science to validate what we already know – that our pain and our grief is real and that for some of us it is more pain than we have ever known. What we do need is patience. Patience from others and patience with ourselves. We need to honor our feelings and just feel them . . . without judgement.

Our pets can feel our emotions on a level most people cannot feel. And our pets can feel our emotions after they pass just as they did when they were with us here on Earth.

Our departed pets are always connected to us and are just a thought away. Since time does not exist in the afterlife, they patiently await the moment we will be reunited on the Other Side. As you honor your grief, it moves you forward into healing and in turn, they receive the benefits of that healing within their souls. It brings them great joy when you share that love again with another animal companion.

In closing, let us open our hearts, our minds and our souls to this experience and express our joy for the gift of relationship that we shared with our animal companion.

Let us ask for the grace to mourn without shame, but with dignity and peace.

Let us ask for the grace to be patient with ourselves and know that our journey is our own and is to be taken at our own pace.

Let us ask for the grace to acknowledge that mourning is our way of cleansing our hearts and renewing our spirits.