

## Help Kids Cope with Pet Deaths

**Author offers advice for parents on how to help their children handle a beloved animal's death.**

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Coping with a pet's death is challenging enough but communicating that loss to young children can be daunting. One mother and animal lover turned that difficult situation around by writing a children's book.

The book, *Angel Dog Austin*, by Teri Bennett was written, Bennett says, to help children and families come to terms with pets' deaths.

And since writing the book, Bennett said, she's often asked for her advice on how to handle pet deaths. She offers the following tips for parents when explaining the loss of a family pet:

Honesty is the best policy, but don't give too many details on the pet's death. Keep the explanation short and sweet.

It's OK to be sad. Parents should let their children know that they're sad too. It's important to reassure them that the pet is all right and had a fulfilling life.

Create a memorial scrapbook. Help the children express their feelings and honor the beloved pet. A creative memorial is something children can take pride in and treasure.

For more information on Bennett or her book, *Angel Dog Austin*, visit her website.