

ON THE DEATH OF A BELOVED PET

Rabbi Robert Goodman

Dear God, Creator of all life, You have blessed us with life in so many forms — from the smallest insects to the largest animals that roam the earth. To human beings, You gave the power to think and to remember, the power to love and to nurture that love. To others of Your living creatures, You gave them the power to give us love in many forms. Our pets give us the gift of unqualified and unconditional love. They love us, and love us some more and there is always more love where that came from. When they become part of our lives, they become a very special part of our family life and all that we share. We thank You, O God, for all that they gave to us. We speak of them as pets, but truly they are loving companions, special members of our family, who enjoy our love and give it back to us without measure. Compared to the number of years that we humans live, their lives are brief. And when their lives come to an end, we feel the pain of our loss because a beloved member of our family had died. With pain, sadness, hurt and grief, we mourn the loss of our beloved pet, _____, who brought so much sunshine into our lives. May we always treasure the love and joy that _____ brought to us, and may we always remember the lessons of love that s/he taught us so well. Amen.