



## Grieving the death of a pet: Coping strategies from Quran and Hadith

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### Introduction

Losing a pet can be very upsetting and one of the hardest things to go through. A pet is a beloved family member who provides companionship, fun, and joy to our lives. Yet, when faced with its death, it can be overwhelming for family members. Many articles were written by the West on the coping strategies that can be adopted. However, one article that appears in the Mufti Wilayah Persekutuan's website catches my attention the most. An enquirer wrote to the Mufti asking, "Is it possible to see my beloved cat once again in paradise? The Mufti responded citing verses from the Quran and hadiths.

### Obligation towards all creatures

Narrated by Syaddad bin Aus RA: The Prophet said PBUH said: "Verily Allah has prescribed *ihsan* (proficiency, perfection) in all things." In another hadith, narration from Abdullah bin 'Umar RA where the Prophet PBUH said: "A woman was tortured and was put in Hell because of a cat which she had kept locked till it died of hunger." Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) further said, (Allah knows better) Allah said (to the woman), 'You neither fed it nor watered when you locked it up, nor did you set it free to eat the vermin of the earth (Sahih al-Bukhari 2365).

In the first hadith, Muslims are instructed to treat all of Allah SWT's creatures kindly. This involves being kind to all human beings and also showing compassion for animals. Thus it is compulsory to have *ihsan* or *mercy towards animals*. *In the second hadith, we learned that it is against the shariah and haram to oppress or treat them badly. Additionally, failing to take care of them may result in someone being punished in Hellfire.*

### Meeting the loved ones in the Hereafter

Unlike humans who are judged for their good and bad deeds, animals will instead turn to dust when they die. This is confirmed in the narration from Abu Hurairah RA where he said: "Indeed, Allah will assemble all of the creations (on the day of Judgment). (Of which includes) every animal, bird and human. Then, Allah will say to the animals and birds: "Change to soil." However, in Surah Qaf (verse 35), Allah has promised that "They will have whatever they wish therein, and with Us is more." In another verse in Quran, in Surah Yasin (verse 57) Allah states, "For them therein is fruit, and for them is whatever they request [or wish]." Both verses state that only the pious will be granted anything they desire and wish for in paradise - and this includes their beloved pets which have passed on.

### Conclusion

Doing good deeds in this life is essential if one wants to be rewarded with a position in paradise by Allah SWT. Care for pets and other animals is among the actions that can bring a person to Jannah.

### Reference

Al-Kafi #1139: Is it possible to see your beloved cat once again in paradise? (2019, March 5).

Mufti of Federal Territory's Office. <https://muftiwp.gov.my/en/artikel/al-kafi-li-al-fatawi/3170-al-kafi-1139-is-it-possible-to-see-your-beloved-cat-once-again-in-paradise>

\*In ever loving memory of Konnichiwa "Konni", who departed on August 31, 2022. Till we meet again, Insha'Allah.

