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The Good Death

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OVERVIEW

November 14, 2019 by Dr. Mel Newton A good death. That is our responsibility to the animals under our care, if we can possibly give them one. It isn't always possible – they get lost, hit by a car, burned by a fire, swept away in a flood, poisoned by contaminated feed. It's a dangerous business – this thing called living. Sometimes we get lucky. Those under our care live a full and happy life until they drop dead seemingly out of nowhere – an undiagnosed heart condition, an aneurysm. It's over so fast that it leaves you reeling. Just yesterday they were fine! I never knew anything was wrong. Other times the choice is clear. Your horse is writhing on the ground in pain from a colic episode. Surgery isn't an option and medical management has failed. Euthanasia is the only option so you give your partner the relief…