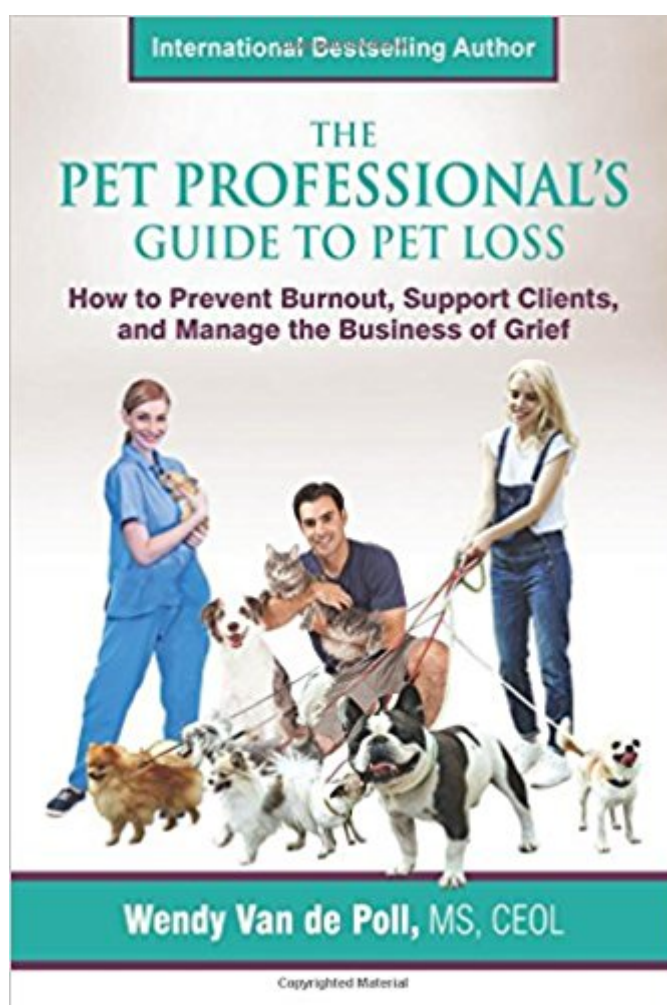


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# The Pet Professional's Guide To Pet Loss: How To Prevent Burnout, Support Clients, And Manage The Business Of Grief



## Synopsis

As a pet care professional how many times have you had a client that just received the news their pet is terminally ill, has died tragically, or is dealing with pet loss? And how many times have you had to deliver the news yourself? You are not sure what to say, but you want to be compassionate and helpful. You are literally either lost for words, feel like you said the wrong thing, or would like to be more effective when delivering the news. It is critical to know how to help your clients when they are faced with pet loss death and grief. With the increasing growth in the pet care industry veterinarian medicine is changing--as are all pet care professions. There will be more demands on you and your business. This will make it essential for you to make it a daily practice to take care of yourself to deal with work related health issues. Compassion fatigue and burnout are real, and they both have a way of sneaking up on you. Once you buy and read this comprehensive guide for all pet care professionals you will know exactly what to do to prevent burnout, support clients, and manage the business of grief. It is your resource to gain a basic knowledge of--grief and loss, self-care, how to support your clients within your scope of practice, and the business of grief.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In review of "The Pet Professional's Guide to Pet Loss" Our business interacts every day with pet professionals across several states. One of the things I notice often amongst the pet professionals we serve is a sense of "weariness" surrounding the loss of yet another client's

pet. Coming from a background as a human funeral director I have come to realize the grief that pet professionals deal with on a regular basis and often far more frequently than human death care professionals. Wendy's book provides practical and actionable suggestions to avoid or lessen the impact on pet professionals who deal with the death of pets on a regular basis. Through understanding the importance of recognizing the signs of compassion fatigue and burnout pet professionals are better able to help themselves and in turn their clients. I highly recommend "The Pet Professional's Guide to Pet Loss" for anyone who wishes to consistently care for client families in a professional and empathetic manner, while understanding this is not possible unless they take care of themselves first.

Thomas E. Rood, Director of Market Development/General Manager Faithful Companion Pet Cremation Services, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey and Tennessee

\*\*\*\*\*A wonderful book for everyone in the pet care industry. Wendy provides a comprehensive and easy to understand explanation of the grief process supported by case studies. Each chapter is nicely summarized in the "Quick Reference Tips" to help reinforce the major points. As a practicing veterinarian of 20 years, I am confronted daily with pet loss and client grief. The emotional stress does take a toll... Wendy's book will help prevent compassion fatigue for, not only myself, but also, many dedicated pet caregivers.

Jonna L. Anderson, DVM, Veterinarian

\*\*\*\*\*The Pet Professional's Guide to Pet Loss is excellent for pet business owners, animal care specialists, veterinarians, technicians, dog trainers, or anyone associated with a people that love their animals. As a head dog trainer, I find it difficult to find the right words to comfort someone dealing with the grief of losing a beloved pet. As Wendy pointed out in her book, there are common myths about what to say versus what we should say to an owner. I want to be helpful, supportive and compassionate when a client shares their grief with me. Wendy has outlined some simple, easy statements that give me the words to be more supportive.

Wendy has given business owners such as myself a thorough guide for the recognition of "Compassion fatigue." She has also given insight to a business owner as a client what it may be like for animal care takers dealing with death on a daily basis. This book presents a guide in a simple, concise way. Although, the emotion and stages are extremely complex; this is when you need the simplicity of language and a message in how to navigate through the realm of death and grief in a positive way.

Dr. Tammy Davis, CEO Davis Dog Training, LLC

In my career as a pet loss grief coach and specialist I found the increasing need to care for the people that care for our pets. Compassion fatigue and burnout are real for pet care

professionals. I wrote this book as a comprehensive guide to gain a basic knowledge of--grief and loss, self-care, how to support your clients, and the business of grief.

Ms. Van de Poll really knows her stuff! Her word choices tell me that she has mastered advising the healthiest and most compassionate approach to assisting ALL pet professionals help their human clients come to terms with pet loss. I am personally fortunate to have some super terrific pet professionals but found that they were at a loss as to what to say after losing our cat. I KNOW that if they take Wendy's advice, they would improve their own service by leaps and bounds. I was especially impressed that Wendy addresses compassion fatigue and what to do about it so that one may remain in the profession without burning out and STILL help her/his human clients ease the transition. What tremendous value Wendy offers for all involved!

I have read previous books by Wendy Van de Poll. And she never fails to deliver all the time! If you have pets and are looking for comprehensive best guidance, then add this book to your library. Consider getting the whole series from this author. Highly recommended!

Anyone who has owned a pet or not needs to read this, because the loss of a pet is devastating, really devastating, so it's great to see this approach on such a serious topic. We all are or know someone who has lost a pet, be sensitive, they lost a family member

As a healer both of humans and pets I found this extremely helpful to not only understand grief, but to also be able to assist my clients with their grief process. Kimberley Grace Medium/animal intuitive/Healer Visionary of Grace Wellness Center

With this book, recognized expert in pet loss grief, Wendy Van de Poll, reaches out to pet professionals to counsel them on how to support pet owners whose pet has died--and how to maintain their own mental, physical and spiritual health as they confront death and dying in their animal charges. Pet professionals from veterinarians to barn managers to prison dog trainers are deeply attached to the animals with whom they work, and yet most lack training in how to cope with their own grief when an animal companion dies, or how to console a client whose beloved pet has died. Wendy Van de Poll provides detailed practical advice within a professional framework of known stages of grief. She shares free resources, and interested parties will also want to look into her other books for adults and even for children, on pet loss. If animals are your business, you need

to know how to face end-of-life issues in caring for the creatures with whom we share the earth. Wendy Van de Poll is your guide.

This is a very good book for professionals in all areas of work. Pet loss is a very sensitive subject and the author approaches the topic exceptionally well. The author has obviously worked with a large number of individuals experiencing loss and knows how to approach it. There are things in this book I disagree with slightly from a religious view point, but the author knows her stuff. I would encourage you to read this book if you deal with any kind of pet loss on a consistent basis because it will prove extremely helpful. The book covers myths, the power of honesty, the fact that grief can change, the importance of listening and really much more. I have worked with livestock all my life and I understand loss extremely well and I probably deal with it much differently than most people. I tend to be insensitive even though I have dealt with it myself before and I am thankful for the advice on how to deal with other people especially. I love that this book includes real life examples of people working with clients from all sorts of different pet professions. For me it was a very interesting book with good advice.

This book is an essential book for any library, but especially people who have to face other's grief. Wendy is a voice to be heard. She is compassionate and in this book she teaches people to be compassionate with themselves so they can be compassionate with others. She understands grief and she helps people give themselves permission to grieve in healthy ways when they lose an important companion. She also gives the reader tools to guide themselves down that dark road with an honest positive hope to not forget but to experience the grief and move on to another start. I can not explain how helpful her books have been to my own understanding of how I handled losing pets both as an adult and as a child. I am in a better place now thanks to Wendy Van de Poll. Thank you!

As a healthcare worker, I know about the "compassion fatigue" that Van de Poll discusses in her latest book *THE PET PROFESSIONAL'S GUIDE TO PET LOSS*. Professional burnout from repeatedly sharing a family member's loss is a common and devastating problem for workers in clinical animal care. It affects their ability to go to work and function effectively. Van de Poll provides empathy and compassion in guiding the reader to manage their burnout. Her years of experience as a pet loss grief coach, as the author of five books on pet loss grief and as a pet loss grief continuing education provider make her an authority on processing grief and working through it to achieve inner peace while also supporting the client's needs with understanding and strength during their

grieving process. THE PET PROFESSIONAL'S GUIDE TO PET LOSS is a comprehensive guide explaining grief and how to recognize unhealthy grief, offering support, resources and discussing the management of compassion fatigue and how to avoid this burnout. One of my favorite insights from Van de Poll was on handling grief through the concept that "grief never ends but that it changes in nature . . ." it provided me with a new perspective to work from. Ms Van de Poll provides the pet professional with the strategies of the coaching profession providing the guidelines and boundaries for being a skilled listener. I love her positive, authoritative style – it lends stability to a difficult time.

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