## **Outline**

#### **Client Grief Education:**

- How Pet Loss Grief Differs from Other Grief How pet loss is often minimized by others
- Why typical support systems may be unavailable
- Unrealistic expectations about the grief process

#### The Role of Attachment in Pet Loss Grief: Why Understanding Pet Bonding is Key to Compassionate Counseling

History of the human animal bond

Three types of pet bonds counselors need to know

The economics of pet bonds Cultural and familial norms of pet relationships

#### The Disenfranchised Grief of Pet Loss: Strategies to Help Clients Grieve Without Fear of Judgement

- How to help clients understand the nature of a disenfranchised grief
- Strategies to help clients externalize grief thoughts and feelings
- How to find like-minded supports for clients Techniques for educating clients and others on what is appropriate in grief

#### **Anticipatory Grief:**

Helping Clients with Pets Nearing the End

Understanding anticipatory grief The role of pet parent and caregiver How to help clients develop a trusting relationship with their veterinarian Palliative care vs. Hospice care issues

#### Euthanasia in Pet Loss Grief: **Effective Interventions for Anger and Guilt**

- Strategies to help clients cope with anger, guilt and regret
- Teach clients to use a caregiver journal to name and express feelings
- Positive self-talk exercises to help clients heal

#### Mourning Rituals to Help Clients Cope with Pet Loss

- Role of religion and belief in spirit
- How clients can make a special place to honor and remember pets
- The role of the veterinarian or pet memorial park
- Continuing bonds to provide comfort and support
- Use linking objects exercises to reduce the impact of loss

#### Group Therapy:

How to Create and Lead Pet Loss Support Groups

- Group types -- closed or open, self-help or educational
- Implementation and marketing strategies for your group
- 3 ways to guickly build trust and rapport with group members
- How to ensure group safety

#### Live Webinar Schedule

(Times listed in Pacific)

- 8:00 Program begins 11:50-1:00 Lunch Break
- 4:00 Program ends

There will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon). Actual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speaker A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

## **Objectives**

- 1. Investigate how pet loss grief is often minimized by others and determine how this can impact a client's symptomology.
- 2. Apply psychoeducation approaches with clients to help normalize the grief experienced following the death of a pet.
- 3. Demonstrate to clients how mourning rituals can be used to help them better cope with the loss of a pet.
- 4. Formulate a plan to help clients better understand the nature of disenfranchised grief so they can grieve the loss of a pet without fear of judgement.
- 5. Evaluate how the complex decisions involved in saying goodbye to a pet, including euthanasia, can lead to guilt and self-blame in clients.
- 6. Integrate expectations about anticipatory grief and end of life issues into sessions with clients to help them better prepare for an upcoming loss.





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- Guide clients in grief rituals that honor their pet and move them forward
- Get a displayable certificate of recognition upon completion

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## **PET LOSS GRIEF** | Expand your grief practice in

The grief that accompanies a pet's death can be overwhelming. Guilt inducing decisions surrounding euthanasia are common; and friends and family may minimize the loss, isolating the griever and prolonging their symptoms.

When grieving pet owners feel like they can't go on, they can find themselves in need of a mental health professional. But clinicians with training specific to pet loss can be difficult to find...

#### This webcast will allow you to add a new dimension to your practice as a Pet Loss Grief Counseling Trained Professional and fill a critical gap in the therapeutic landscape!

In just one day, you'll get detailed guidance on how you can skillfully work with clients grieving the loss of their pet and confidently handle the specific issues that arise in pet loss grief work.

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- Help clients grieve openly for the loss of their pet without fear of judgement or having their loss minimized
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- Diminish the guilt associated with euthanasia
- Guide clients in grief rituals that honor their pet and help move them forward in bereavement

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## **Meet Your Speaker**

Diana Sebzda, LPC, FT, is the director of bereavement at the Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center where she provides both individual counseling and support groups for those coping with grief, anticipatory grief, and pet loss.

In addition to 17 years of grief counseling experience, Diana also has over 15 years of experience as a veterinary technician where she's witnessed the impacts of pet loss first hand.

Diana has been published in *Healthy Pet Magazine* and is a Fellow in Thanatology (FT) with the Association for Death Education and Counseling (where she is co-chair of their Pet Loss Networking Group). She is also a member of the Traumatic Loss Coalition of New Jersey, the American Counseling Association, and the Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement. Diana earned her M.A. degree in Applied Clinical Psychology from William Patterson University.

#### Speaker Disclosure:

Financial: Diana Sebzda is the director of bereavement at the Joseph T. Quinlan Bereavement Center. She receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: Diana Sebzda is a Fellow in Thanatology with the Association for Death Education and Counseling. She is a member of the Traumatic Loss Coalition of New Jersey; the American Counseling Association; and the Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement.

For all credit approvals and details, visit: www.pesi.com/webcast/85023

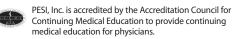
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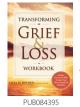
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## **Recommended Reading:**



Transforming Grief & Loss Workbook

Activities, Exercises & Skills to Coach Your Client Through Life Transitions

LOSS Ligia M. Houben, MA, FT, FAAGC, CPC, CHT \$29.99 \$19.99\*

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