

*Gentle Journey Veterinary Hospice*  
*-providing opportunities for*  
*extended farewells*



*Nancy A. Ruffing, DVM*



Dr. Nancy has a PhD in Animal Physiology from the University of California, Davis and received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Cornell University. She has practiced veterinary

medicine in the Pittsburgh area for over 10 years. She believes in providing current information and advice and consults regularly with veterinary specialists. She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Animal Hospital Association, and the Veterinary Information Network.

Our mission is to enable devoted caregivers to provide their terminally ill pets the highest quality of life possible in the comfort of home.

*Pain Management*



*Nutrition Counseling*



*Mobility & Hygiene*



*Euthanasia & Bereavement support*

*Gentle Journey*  
*Veterinary Hospice*

**(412) 801-1071**

[www.gentlejourneyvet.com](http://www.gentlejourneyvet.com)  
[naruffingdvm@verizon.net](mailto:naruffingdvm@verizon.net)

*Gentle*  
*Journey*  
*Veterinary Hospice*



*Compassion*  
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*ASTORINO*  
*Pittsburgh, PA*

*Customized home care*  
*for the pet you love*

*Gentle Journey Veterinary Hospice provides pet owners in southwestern Pennsylvania with the full spectrum of home care choices for their terminally ill pets.*

*First, the medical records of your regular veterinarian are reviewed to ensure continuity of care. Following the initial home visit and physical exam, a customized hospice care plan is developed to meet the needs of your pet within the framework of your desires and abilities. Frequent follow-up assessments update the plan based on the changing needs of you and your pet. At every step of the way, options are discussed in the privacy of your own home.*



***Gentle Journey Veterinary Hospice  
- emphasizing what really matters:  
comfort, quality of life, and  
togetherness***

## *Our Services*

- education about disease and aging
- quality-of-life assessment
- modern pain management
- nutritional counseling
- fluid therapy
- feeding tube placement and maintenance
- mobility and hygiene aids
- in-home and laboratory diagnostic testing
- EKG, blood pressure monitoring, pulse oximetry
- oxygen support
- euthanasia
- funerary arrangements
- bereavement support

### **CARING FOR THE PET**

Your pet's medical, physical, and emotional needs are central to the hospice care plan. We provide comprehensive medical care, including an emergency care kit for "bad" days. We also design a nutritional program to maintain strength and a healthy weight and provide supplements to improve organ function. Physical limitations are addressed so that comfort is maximized and care is simplified. Our goal is to help your pet maintain freedom of motion and continued enjoyment of favorite activities.



### **CARING FOR THE OWNERS**

Hospice care requires a significant commitment. In addition to providing extensive training, we visit regularly to help assess your pet's response to therapy and to provide emotional support. We strive to be there for you before, during, and after the final farewell.

### **MAINTAINING THE BOND**

Successful hospice care depends upon maintenance of the human-pet bond. We use the latest technologies to ease care and provide daily assistance if requested.