

## A Beloved Friends Pet Crematory of Northern Nevada – First to Participate in Pilot Test for the International Association of Pet Cemeteries & Crematories' (IAOPCC) Pet Cremation Standards Inspection

In the United States and Canada, all human funeral homes and crematories must meet state or provincial standards. Some processes are in place to ensure certain minimum standards and sanctioning if those standards are not met.

You might be surprised to learn that the same is not true for pet crematories. Other than environmental regulations and the usual business licensing, there are only 3 states that have any legal standards for pet cremation. Voluntary inspection is the only real protection that exists for the integrity of pet aftercare from pickup, cremation, and return of the pet's remains to its owners. In fact very few pet crematories have volunteered to have any sort of formal inspection.

The **International Association of Pet Cemeteries and Crematories (IAOPCC)** is the only organization that currently has any published recommended procedures for every step of the pet cremation process, including, transportation, each type of pet cremation, readily retrievable records, facility standards and continuing education for pet crematorium staff members. These standards and a program of trial inspections are being tested across the USA and Canada as part of a new pilot program.

As part of **IAOPCC's** pilot program, pet crematories are evaluated against a pool of more than 240 standards that represent the best practices in pet cremation care and pet crematory management. An international task force of crematory operators and a veterinary professional created and continually update the standards to reflect the latest developments and improvements in pet aftercare care, pet cremation techniques, records, cleanliness, staff and client safety, and a host of other areas essential to excellent pet and client care.

A Beloved Friends of Northern Nevada, in Reno, was the first pet crematory in the country to complete this pilot test inspection process. After applying to become inspected, Steve and Elaine Woods, the owners of A Beloved Friends, spent several months examining and fine-tuning its systems, processes, and protocols (procedures) to be sure every aspect met the **IAOPCC's** standards of quality.

The whole facility team became involved, and this resulted in collaboration across the entire operation – an important factor in quality care.

The **IAOPCC** consultant, a trained professional with pet cremation and a veterinary background conducted a pre-visit evaluation and then an on-site evaluation.

Pet Crematories are awarded points for each standard they meet, and they must amass a certain score in order to pass the evaluation. Pet owners and veterinarians can feel reassured about the care their deceased pets receive at A Beloved Friends Pet Crematory, the first to complete the **IAOPCC's** pilot test inspection. This newly inspected operation is doing things right and proving it.