

**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PET CEMETERIES & CREMATORIES
(IAOPCC) NAMES FIRST ACCREDITED PET CREMATORY FACILITY IN THE NATION
*A Beloved Friends Pet Crematory of Northern Nevada -
First in the Nation to Pass Pet Crematory Accreditation***

Atlanta, Georgia – April 15, 2014 – The International Association of Pet Cemeteries and Crematories (IAOPCC) has announced the first Pet Crematory facility in the nation to pass its Accreditation Program. *A Beloved Friends Pet Crematory of Northern Nevada received its Accreditation award on April 1, 2014.*

Pet Parents can now feel reassured about the care their deceased animal receives now that the new worldwide Accreditation Standards have been announced for pet cemeteries and crematories by the **International Association of Pet Cemeteries and Crematories (IAOPCC).**

Founded in 1971, the [IAOPCC](#) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing the standards, ethics and professionalism of pet cemeteries and crematories worldwide.

In an unprecedented and historical first, the **IAOPCC** is the only organization with 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. *Following five years of study and research, these Accreditation standards, processes, and program of inspections were rolled out in January of 2014 across the United States, Canada, and worldwide to its Members.* Since 2009 the **IAOPCC Standards Committee**, a group of eight pet crematory owners and operators located throughout the US and Canada, have met monthly to develop these intense and rigorous standards.

A Beloved Friends Pet Crematory of Northern Nevada, in Reno, was the first pet crematory in the country to complete this inspection process. Before applying in March 2014 to become accredited, owners, Steve and Elaine Woods, had spent several months prior examining its systems, processes, and procedures to be sure every aspect met the IAOPCC's standards of quality. After a thorough review and inspection, they were awarded Accreditation status on April 1, 2014.

Through the **IAOPCC's Accreditation Program**, pet crematories are evaluated against a pool of more than 240 standards representing the best practices in pet cremation care and management. An international task force of crematory operators 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 areas essential to excellent pet and client care.

In an industry requiring very little oversight, other than environmental regulations and business licensing, pet aftercare has been largely a self-regulated profession. Currently there are only 2 states, Illinois and New York, in the United States that have any legal standards for pet cremation. With the introduction of the **IAOPCC Accreditation Program**, the **IAOPCC** has given the industry and the pet owner a measure of protection regarding the integrity of the pet aftercare processes from those pet crematories who seek out Accreditation and inspection.

For additional local information, please contact Steve Woods with A Beloved Friend's Pet Crematory at 775-825-9900.

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