

<b>ChooseKindness.com Career Description</b>	
<b>Career</b>	Pet Loss/Grief Counselor
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<b>What training is needed to work in this field?</b>	Ethically, a person must have training as a counselor. This might be in social work, psychology, counseling, etc. Most counseling businesses require a master's degree, but some will hire a person with a bachelor's degree. However, for a person to go into private practice in the field of counseling, each state has different requirements for a person to legally call him-/herself a counselor. These requirements may be as simple as registering with the state; or they may be as complex as proving receipt of a specific degree, completing a minimum number of hours of supervised practice, and taking and passing a standardized examination. There is also an optional national Certified Thanatologist (C.T.) credential that demonstrates proficiency in bereavement issues.
<b>What is a typical week like or what do you spend most of your time doing in your job?</b>	Providing individual and group counseling sessions, including documentation. Reading journals and doing research to keep up with the latest information in the fields of counseling, grief/bereavement, and pet loss. Meeting with other counselors for debriefing and consultation. Making presentations to groups. Marketing my services with veterinarians, animal shelters, groomers, etc. Assuring that I have time to let go of others' pain so that I don't take it home with me.
<b>What is the job outlook for this field?</b>	As long as there are human beings, there will be emotional pain, which means there is a bright job outlook for counselors in general. Not every person whose animal dies or becomes ill, however, seeks the services of a counselor. And of those who seek grief counseling, not every person is willing to pay for it. As a result, most counselors who provide pet-loss counseling have a practice that includes other issues as well.
<b>What are the benefits of working in this field?</b>	The satisfaction of helping ease pain, bit by bit. The joy of sharing peoples' stories about their relationships with their beloved pets.
<b>What advice or other information do you want to share with someone considering this field?</b>	Strong counseling skills are essential. Sometimes the people who seek pet-loss counseling have deeply rooted family issues, including abuse and mental illness. Without adequate training and skills, a person who simply wants to

	“help” can be taken by surprise and can actually do emotional harm to the recipient.
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