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Cover Photo: Bailey, Lap of Love patient, Woodbridge, VA, Sharea Marie Photography

Coco
Lap of Love patient
Yorba Linda, CA
COMPANY OVERVIEW

Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice is a nationwide network of doctors who have dedicated their careers exclusively to veterinary hospice and euthanasia services. We believe that all pets, and the people who love them, deserve the most compassionate and supportive end of life experience that veterinary medicine has to offer. Our doctors offer quality of life assessments, pain and anxiety management, end of life consultations, and peaceful euthanasia in the comfort of the pet’s favorite place—home.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We consider the human aspect of a pet’s end of life care just as important as the medical aspect. Lap of Love doctors know that discussing when to say goodbye is the most important conversation a veterinarian ever has with a family. Our veterinarians offer compassionate, open-minded guidance to pet parents who are deciding when, how, and why to either euthanize or continue medical management for their pet. Our group’s philosophy centers around the human-animal bond and the need for that bond to be as undisturbed as possible during this most difficult time.

INDUSTRY PIONEERS

Founded by Dani McVety, DVM and Mary Gardner, DVM, Lap of Love has revolutionized the care of geriatric pets, the end-stage management of terminal illnesses, and the handling of euthanasia in the veterinary space. By perfecting the veterinary hospice concept and proactively bringing euthanasia into the home, we are transforming end of life care from a minute percentage of practice into its own industry.

As the pioneers in end of life care, we seek to actively educate and share our vast reserves of knowledge with other veterinary professionals and pre-professionals, providing critical information that is not taught in veterinary schools. This has substantially contributed to the growth of a new culture of veterinarians; doctors who are learning to treat death not as a failure of medicine, but as the natural progression of biology.
Dr. Dani McVety started Lap of Love 3 months after graduating from veterinary school as a way to pay back school loans while she was working in emergency medicine. Her inspiration began with a love of people combined with volunteer work for human hospice.

Mary Gardner, DVM, joined Lap of Love in 2010 as the company’s co-founder with almost a decade of experience in software design before becoming a veterinarian. She led the development of the company’s proprietary practice management software.

Lap of Love offers hospice care (which includes quality of life assessment, pain and anxiety management, and end of life consultation), and peaceful euthanasia, all in the comfort of the pet’s favorite place—home.

Lap of Love was modeled after human hospice. Our veterinarians focus on palliative and pain management, not on curing a pet’s disease.

Since Lap of Love’s inception, our veterinarians have helped 108,000+ pets and their families.

Lap of Love has grown over 40% YOY since its inception in 2009.

In 2017 alone:

- Our veterinarians helped 35,000+ pets and their families.
- Our care coordinators engaged in 134,000 conversations with families, at an average of 15 minutes per call.
- We delivered 32 hours of end of life education and gave 26 presentations at veterinary schools across the country.

Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice
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While preparing a family for a euthanasia late one night at an emergency clinic, the client looked up at Dr. Dani McVety and said “Please, can you leave her on my lap, instead of that cold, sterile table?” Only a few months out of vet school, Dr. Dani had been taught to take pets to the “treatment area” in the back of the clinic to begin the euthanasia process. But the pet parent’s request was too powerful, too meaningful for Dr. Dani to refuse. With some quick improvising, she gave the little Chihuahua a peaceful passing in the comfort of her mom’s lap. At that moment, Dr. Dani realized that every pet deserved a dignified experience where they feel comfortable and safe—in their parent’s lap.

Shortly after, Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice was born in Tampa, Florida, growing from a fulfilling, part time project to pay back Dr. Dani’s student loans into a passion for pets, their people, and the doctors who care for them.

Today, Lap of Love is one of the most respected networks of doctors in the veterinary profession, setting the standard for end of life care higher than it has ever been before.
WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

OUR SERVICES
Lap of Love exclusively offers in-home veterinary hospice and euthanasia services. These include:

- Quality of life assessments
- Pain and anxiety management
- End of life consultations
- Peaceful euthanasia

Our veterinarians offer compassionate, open-minded guidance to pet parents who are deciding when, how, and why to either euthanize or continue medical management for their pet. A peaceful end of life experience best supports the comfort of the patient, allows the clients to navigate their grief without the burden of guilt, and provides the most supportive environment for doctors. These benefits culminate to unparalleled patient care and promotion of the human-animal bond.

OUR DOCTORS
When hiring, Lap of Love specifically seeks empathetic veterinarians who provide clients with gentle guidance and genuine compassion instead of narrow-minded judgment. Any veterinarian who chooses to dedicate his or her life to the practice of veterinary hospice and euthanasia is incredibly special. It’s not an easy role to play in our society, and when asked why we do this, our response is always: “Because it is an honor.”

WE ARE INDUSTRY PIONEERS
Lap of Love has revolutionized the care of geriatric pets, the end-stage management of terminal illnesses, and the handling of euthanasia in the veterinary space. By perfecting the veterinary hospice concept and proactively bringing euthanasia into the home, we are transforming end of life care from a minute percentage of practice into its own industry.

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Mary Gardner, DVM
Co-Founder and CTO

Veterinarian | Speaker | Consultant | Author | Inventor

Dr. Mary Gardner spent a decade in software design before completing her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. She worked in general practice for two years before joining Dr. Dani McVety as the co-founder of Lap of Love International in 2010.

Combining her software experience with her knowledge of the veterinary industry, Dr. Gardner led the development of Lap of Love’s proprietary practice management software, which is specific for veterinary hospice and euthanasia services. She also developed The Pet Hospice Journal, an online interactive Quality of Life Assessment program, and the first Quality of Life App (Grey Muzzle), both of which are free to the public.

Dr. Gardner writes and speaks for professional and lay audiences on all aspects of end of life care, including veterinary hospice and euthanasia. She is a frequent speaker at veterinary industry events, professional sales meetings, veterinary schools and animal hospitals around the country.

Learn more about Dr. Gardner

Dr. McVety, Dr. Gardner, and Lap of Love have been featured on numerous local, national, and professional media outlets.
WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY

“Because of you, I’m not afraid to get another dog.”

— J. Weddington, Albuquerque, NM

“To have Maggie home, on her bed, with her pillow surrounded by all was the greatest gift we could ever give her. I can’t say enough about Lap of Love and the warm environment they provide at such a difficult time.”

— Tracy, Bob, Chris and Pat, Freeport, NY

“Dr. Anne reassured us that letting Connor go was the compassionate thing to do. She took one of the worst days of my life and made it much better than I could have imagined.”

— K. Arbaugh, Media, PA

“Dr. Leann gave wonderful counsel, removing guilt and dread from the process. With her empathy so apparent, I was able to express my grief fully, without fear of judgment.”

— B. McIlvaine, Vista, CA

“With [Dr. Lori’s] hospice help, Daisy and I were able to enjoy 5 more months together!”

— D. Ortega, Portland, OR

...and thousands more on our website!

WHAT OUR DOCTORS SAY

“I say it all the time, and I mean it each time...this work is SUCH an immense privilege!”

— Dawnetta Woodruff, DVM, St. Louis, MO

“Proud to be part of this family that continues to innovate and change our industry!”

— Leslie Peltier, DVM, Columbus, OH

“I am still, on a daily basis pinching myself that I am now part of Lap of Love. I honestly think this is and will be the best chapter of my career and life.”

— Sheilah Robertson, BVMS (Hons), PhD, DACVAA, DECVA, DACAW, DECAWBM (WSEL), CVA, MRCVS, Senior Medical Director at Lap of Love and former professor of Dr. Dani and Dr. Mary, Gainesville, FL
AWARDS

2018

Lap of Love ranks 19 on the 2018 Gator 100, the 100 fastest-growing Gator-owned companies in the world.

Dr. Dani McVety and Dr. Mary Gardner are voted “Top 20 Veterinarians to Watch in 2018” by Fetch/DVM360.

2017

Lap of Love receives the Innovative Practice of the Year award from the Veterinary Innovation Council, a division of the North American Veterinary Community.

Lap of Love is awarded Best in Show award from the Veterinary Innovation Council for receiving more votes than any nominee in any category.

Lap of Love appears on the 2017 GrowFL Companies to Watch List, which celebrates high performing, second-stage companies headquartered in Florida.

Lap of Love is a semi-finalist in the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce’s 2017 Small Business of the Year awards.

Dr. Dani McVety receives the Tampa Bay Business Journal’s 2017 Up & Comers Hall of Fame award in the Under 40 category.

Lap of Love ranks 76 on the 2017 Gator 100.

2016

Dr. Dani McVety receives the Advocate Award and is named Pet Industry Woman of the Year by Women in the Pet Industry Network (WIPIN).

Dr. Mary Gardner receives the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine’s Distinguished Young Alumni Award.

Lap of Love ranks 45 on the 2016 Gator 100.

2015

Lap of Love ranks 29 on the 2015 Gator 100.

2014

Dr. Dani McVety receives the Florida Veterinary Medical Association’s President’s Award, making her the youngest recipient of the award to date.

2013

Dr. Dani McVety receives the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine’s Distinguished Young Alumni Award, making her the youngest recipient of the award to date.
MEDIA COVERAGE

“Lap of Love helps ailing pets, owners.” Network Tennessee Daily News Journal, 8/18/17

“The amazing grace of senior pets.” Veterinary Practice News, 8/17/17

“Recategorizing Compassion Fatigue.” Veterinarian’s Money Digest, 6/8/17

“Lap of Love brings end life care and comfort to pet owners homes.” The Buffalo News, 4/27/17

“Vet allows pet owners to say goodbye at home.” Fox 5 Atlanta, 2/15/17

“A Good Goodbye.” Albuquerque Journal, 1/13/17

“Vet brings peace to pets, families with in-home euthanasia.” New at 10, Fox 13 News, 10/26/15

“Hospice Care...for Pets?” Huffington Post, 3/27/14


“Pet Hospice Helps Owners Say Goodbye.” USA Today, 12/11/13

“Hospice Care Offered to Ill Pets, Grieving Owners.” The Associated Press, 12/11/2013

“All Dogs May Go To Heaven. These Days, Some Go To Hospice.” The New York Times, 12/1/13

...and many more on our website!

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