WHEN THE ANIMAL IS DYING OR HAS DIED

Advice from Lama Zopa Rinpoche:

*'If you love your animal very much then this is what you must do for them
for their good rebirth and quick liberation from samsara.'*

Body & Mind

First of all, we need to remind ourselves that these practices are being done in the context of the Buddhist understanding that mind and body are of a different kind. The body dies but the mind, or consciousness, is transforming into a new rebirth, a new body.

Because the Animal Kingdom is considered a world with much more suffering and significantly less possibilities than the human world, we want to do everything to help the consciousness of the animal find a higher rebirth.

A very important condition for a better rebirth is that the animal has a calm mind at the time of death.
Also being in contact with sacred objects (images, stupas, pictures and mantras) purifies negative karma and gathers positive merits for the animal, which helps to gain the goal of a higher rebirth.

What you can do

Recite mantras: OM MANI PADME HUM, Heruka mantra and Heruka root mantra, and other mantras such as Milarepa and Namgyalma mantras. Recite the mantras and 'blow' them over the body of the animal.
You can recite the long mantras 21 times or more and the short mantras one mala (108) or more.
Blow strongly on the body after each time or you can blow on water, visualizing each deity absorbed into the water; each drop has the power to purify negative karmas. Then pour the water on the animal; all negative karmas are purified.

Medicine Buddha Practice

When the animal is dying, it's also advisable to do the Medicine Buddha practice, for more information see www.fpmt.com

More explanations, mantras and downloads

Extended explanations, mantras and downloads you can also find on www.enlightenmentforanimals.org
Under 'practices - death & dying' you can also find a mantra paper to put on dead bodies to purify.
This is written especially to put right on the body - put it right on the skin, on the forehead or the chest.