

DEATH OF A CAT  
By Alice Teeple

SCENE

*We are in a vet's office. A woman is about to put her pet cat to sleep. She is understandably very upset. The vet gets out the euthanasia kit.*

Vet

Mrs. Tyler, this procedure takes about 30 seconds, then Fuzzles will cross the Rainbow Bridge. I'll give you all the time you need to say goodbye.

Woman

Oh, thank you. I think I'm ready.  
*(vet preps the injection)*

Fuzzles...

*(looks up, pointing at injection needle)*  
Oh...is that needle sanitary?

Vet

Excuse me?

Woman

The needle. Is it sanitary? It looks like it's been used before.

Vet

Well, it has. It's our standard kit for euthanizing.

Woman *(bristling)*

Excuse me?

Vet

We only need one injection, and the animals peacefully "go to sleep."

Woman

But you don't change the needles?

Vet

Well, we don't really see the need, considering the nature of the procedure.

Woman  
But that's horrible.

Vet  
Well, each injection syringe costs money.

Woman (*increasingly irate*)  
What kind of a monster are you?

Vet  
Ma'am, I'm just doing my job.

Woman  
You're doing your job. Killing animals....with a DIRTY NEEDLE. You're getting the worst Yelp review I can give. Honestly. Filthy euthanasia needles. I'm appalled.

Vet  
Well, I can swap out for a new needle, if it makes you feel better.

Woman  
You goddamn better swap out that needle right now. And you're going to put Fuzzles to sleep with a sanitary needle, or I'm suing you for veterinary malpractice.

Vet  
Mrs. Tyler...

Woman  
Don't you Mrs. Tyler me. Switch it up.

Vet  
Very well.

*He administers the injection with a fresh needle and we see the spirit of Fuzzles rise up out of the dead body and float away like a cat angel.*

Woman  
Well, that wasn't so bad.

Vet

They don't feel a thing.

Woman

The hell they don't. It's like you're giving them crack needles or something around here.

Vet

NURSE, CAN YOU COME IN HERE, PLEASE?

The end