

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT  
ABOUT WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN IN THE EVENT  
YOU ARE UNABLE TO  
CARE FOR YOUR PET?**

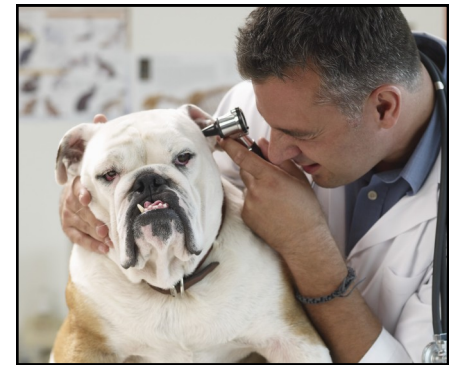
**HAVING A PLAN IN PLACE  
TO ENSURE THAT YOUR  
PET IS CARED FOR CAN  
GIVE YOU PEACE OF  
MIND.**

- Leave a bequest in your will to an animal rescue organization to find a home for the pet
- Make an informal arrangement with a friend, neighbor, or relative
- Leave the pet and some money for the pet's care in your will to someone you trust
- Leave money in your trust and appoint a trustee who has a legal duty to use the trust for the pet's benefit.
- Leave money in your will to a veterinarian for the pet's care. Or write a contract with the vet and pay an amount for the expected future services.



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## **Planning for Your Pet's Care After You Are Gone**



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## Planning for Your Pet's Care

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Here is a recent Facebook post by an animal rescue organization:

*It's important for people of all ages to... make sure their pets are provided for. These 3 pups were not so fortunate. Their owner died and all 3 were taken to the pound. They are currently available for adoption and will be on pet-finder soon. Missy appears to be housebroken and I bet they all are. We think they may be maltese/ and or westie mixes.*



Some animal welfare groups estimate that approximately 10 percent of animals, or 500,000 per year, dropped off at shelters are there because their owners have died. The owners could have been

- Elderly;
- Seriously ill for a while; or
- Were well but suddenly became ill or were seriously injured in an accident and either died or were otherwise unable to care for the pet.

Often the deceased owners had made

no arrangements for the animal to be taken care of. Sometimes relatives or friends don't want the pet, and will just take them to the pound, where they are often euthanized.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Leave a bequest to an animal rescue organization with the proviso that they care for and, hopefully, find a home for your pet. There are some general rescue organizations, e.g., Stonecliffe Animal Rescue or Big Dawg's Rescue, that are willing to do this. There are breed specific rescues as well, such as Northwest Boxer Rescue, West Coast Boxer Rescue, or Central Coast Pug Rescue.



- Make an informal arrangement with a friend, neighbor, or relative to care for the pet if you can't. There are issues with notification, and changed circumstances with this kind of arrangement. For example, the person might move or could suffer unforeseen financial difficulties and not be able to help out.

- Leave the pet and some money for expenses in your will to someone you trust to look out for it. The law still sees pets as property, so you cannot directly leave the money to the pet.



- Leave money in trust and appoint a trustee who has a legal duty to use the trust fund for the pet's benefit.
- For veterinary care, in any event, you could leave money in your will to the vet. In addition, you can write a contract with a vet and pay or leave the vet a certain amount, as a credit toward expected services.

**Leatherman Law Group** can help you with your pet care planning. Contact us for a free consultation.



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