

What will happen to your pet when you're gone? Ensure proper care with Pet Estate Planning.

Do you consider your animals to be members of your family? If you haven't made provisions for their continued care, they will be treated upon your death as any other item of personal property. Often, the recipient of animals does not care to, or is not prepared to, take on the responsibility of their ongoing care. As a result, the animals may then be euthanized, neglected or abandoned. To avoid this undesirable outcome, when your estate plan is established, it should address the specific concerns surrounding animal ownership.



Massachusetts does not recognize trusts for the benefit of animals, but it is possible to establish a viable plan to provide the care you desire for your animals. A plan will provide the necessary funds to care for them once you pass away. Planning for the continued care of your pet is a little tricky. You will need to establish parameters and contingencies.

Since animals pass through owners' estates as personal property, it is also important to provide language in your Will to ensure that their ownership is given to the proper party. You should also plan for pet care in the event that you become mentally or physically incapacitated.

Ongoing care for your pets when you are unable to care for them yourself is too important to leave to chance. Call today to set up an appointment with an expert in planning for the ongoing care of your pets.

Concerns

Who will care for my animals when I die?

How will a caretaker pay for my animals' care?

Can I leave my pets to someone in my Will?

What happens to my animals if I lose my mental or physical capacity to care for them?

How do I choose someone to care for my animals?

How can I be certain that my animals will benefit from the arrangements that I make for them?

How do I determine the level of funds necessary to provide care for my pets?

What happens if the caretaker that I establish for my pets dies?

Are there "animal retirement homes?"

Who will make end of life decisions for my pets if I can't?

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