

FRIENDS FOREVER

Friends Forever is a special group of individuals who have made provisions in their estates to benefit the animals at The Maryland SPCA.



Friends Forever is the SPCA's way of thanking people for their generosity and foresight. Members receive a lapel pin with the Friends Forever logo, and their names are listed in the annual report of giving if they choose.

The Maryland SPCA has helped animals since 1869. Caring individuals who have made provisions in their estates have made life better for countless needy animals. The generosity of these individuals helps the animals every day.

PLANNED GIVING SERIES

Please contact the SPCA Development Office to receive a brochure on any of these topics:

- ♦ **Charitable Bequests**—the benefits of giving through your will
- ♦ **Securities & Real Estate**—gifts of appreciated property
- ♦ **Life Insurance & Retirement Plans**
- ♦ **Annuities & Trusts**—gifts that provide lifetime income
- ♦ **Legacy of Care**—a gift that provides care for your pet when you cannot

THE MARYLAND SPCA

The Maryland SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is one of the nation's oldest animal welfare organizations. Founded in 1869, today we help thousands of animals each year find new homes. Our mission is to improve the lives of pets and people in the community by fostering healthy animal-human relationships. Our success depends upon the generosity of people who care about the well-being of animals. We rely upon donations and adoption fees to operate. We are not funded by the government, and we are independent from other animal welfare organizations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the Legacy of Care program or planned giving, please contact:

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This brochure is intended to give you ideas that may be helpful as you consider your estate plans. It is not a comprehensive description of financial, estate, or charitable gift planning. The Maryland SPCA does not offer legal, tax, or financial advice. Persons interested in legal, tax, or financial advice should contact competent professional counsel. Changes in Federal and state laws may affect some of the ideas discussed in this brochure. Our Federal tax identification number is 52-6001558.

Find a friend for life at The Maryland SPCA.

The Maryland SPCA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization registered with the Maryland Secretary of State.

planned GIVING

Legacy of Care



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www.mdspca.org



PLANNING FOR YOUR PET'S FUTURE WITHOUT YOU

We love our pets dearly, and we expect to be there always to care for them. While most people outlive their pets, some do not, and more and more people are making estate plans for their pets in the event that one day they can no longer care for them. Under current law, you cannot leave money in your will to your pet. You can, however, leave money to an individual to be used for the care of your pet. This is a good arrangement for people who have a friend or family member to whom they can entrust their pet's care. For people without such a caretaker, The Maryland SPCA has created the Legacy of Care to find a new home for pets who outlive their owners.

WHAT IS THE LEGACY OF CARE?

The Legacy of Care is The Maryland SPCA's program to ensure that pets continue to receive care after their owners pass away. For people who enroll pets in the program, worrying about who will care for their animals is no longer a concern. Upon the death of a Legacy of Care member, the SPCA will place the orphaned pet in a carefully screened new home and fund veterinary care for the pet's life. Legacy of Care offers peace-of-mind to concerned pet owners. Participation in the program is limited to pets who are free of major health and behavior problems and whose owners arrange for a minimum \$10,000 contribution to The Maryland SPCA through their estates. The contribution will provide for the pet's medical care as well as benefit the SPCA animals.

PROTECTING YOUR WISHES

You may have a will, but do you have a plan for your pets if something should happen to you? You know best what makes your pets happy. Does your dog love car rides or get car sick? Does your cat like other cats? When you enroll in the Legacy of Care, we will provide you with a pet data sheet to give us information about your pet's likes, dislikes, and general health and behavior.

Having clear, written directives will help ensure that your pet has the kind of home you would want for him or her. Instructions in your will are crucial, but that does not protect your pet immediately after your death. We will give you an emergency alert card to carry in your wallet with instructions to contact the SPCA in the event of an emergency. It is also important that you tell a trusted friend or family member of your plans, whether your pet is enrolled in the Legacy of Care or you have made other arrangements for your pet.

HOW THE LEGACY OF CARE PROGRAM WORKS

Pet owners can enroll up to two pets per household in the Legacy of Care. To enroll your pet or pets in the program, contact The Maryland SPCA Development Office at 410-235-8826, ext. 132. Pets will be screened for health and temperament before they can be accepted in the program. If, after an initial conversation, your pet seems to be a good candidate for the Legacy of Care, you will be asked to complete a data sheet describing your pet's history, habits, and preferences. Then SPCA staff will meet with you and your pet to get to know your animal better.

If your pet qualifies for the program, we then will request documentation of the minimum \$10,000 gift to The Maryland SPCA. The gift may be in the form of a bequest of cash or appreciated property, an insurance policy, or retirement account. Documentation can be in the form of a copy of your will or trust document or a letter from your attorney indicating that provisions for the gift have been made in your estate. Funds will be used for the care of your pet and for furthering the humane mission of The Maryland SPCA. Estate gifts have made a big difference to the animals at The Maryland SPCA. They have enabled us to maintain the adoption center and helped us daily to provide better care for the animals.

Prospective adoptive families will be carefully screened. Your pet will be placed in the best possible home, with special consideration for your pet's preferences. Once adopted, the animal will receive veterinary care for life, and The Maryland SPCA will periodically check on your pet's well-being to ensure that he or she is cared for properly.

Do you have a plan for the care of your pet?