

"Pet Trusts Provide Peace of Mind"

By Mindy Felinton, JD



For pet owners, ensuring their beloved pets are taken care of after they die is of great importance. Who will be notified? Who will care for your pets after you are gone? Planning can lead to peace of mind, reducing the anxiety that many pet owners experience.

By establishing a pet trust, you can provide for the continued care and well being of your beloved pets. More than ever, people recognize the importance of planning ahead. Today, pet trusts are recognized in twenty four states.

A pet trust should appoint a caregiver, appoint a trustee and provide for funds and specific instructions for the pets' care and well being. The trust can take effect upon your disability/incapacity or death. Your pet trust should not only set forth who will act as the caregiver, but also appoint a successor caregiver, in the event that the original person is unable or unwilling to act as the caregiver. In your pet trust, a successor trustee will be appointed to make payments on a regular basis for the care of your pets. There may be additional expenses that arise, such

as specialty veterinary care, and the trustees can have the authority to make those payments.

When preparing your pet trust, it is important to address several key issues such as:

- Instructions for the Trustee to regularly check up on your pets
- The standard of living and care you wish for your pets
- How the remainder of the trust should be distributed once your pets die
- Instructions for the final disposition of your pets
- The name of the caregiver and alternate caregiver

If you do not have a designated caregiver, *Pet Eternal Trust Inc.*™ (PET) can oversee the placement and care of your pets. It can also arrange for your pet to remain in your home, with live in help. Pet Eternal Trust routinely monitors the care of your pets. It provides customized services to ensure your pet's continued well being.

In the event that something unexpected happens to you, you



Mindy and Pumpkin

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should provide a caregiver and/or Pet Eternal Trust staff member with keys to your home; feeding and care instructions; the name of your pets' veterinarian; and information about permanent care instructions.

Pet Eternal Trust Inc.™ in conjunction with the caregiver, can provide the following services for your pets:

- Meeting your pet's special food requirements
- Ensuring daily exercise routines
- Arranging play dates for your pets
- Ongoing contact with your pets' veterinarian
- Maintaining regular health care regimens

By establishing a pet trust you are creating a legal vehicle for your pet's continued well being. A Pet Trust provides Peace of mind today, for your pets tomorrow.

PetEternalTrust Inc.™ was born out of Mindy Felinton's love and concern for her own dogs. She realized that there must be others with similar concerns for their beloved pets.

Mindy Felinton is a member of the Pennsylvania, Florida and Maryland Bars. She was an Assistant State Attorney and as a special prosecutor in Palm Beach County, Florida, handled animal abuse cases. Many of her cases have been profiled on television, radio, and in the international press. She is a member of the *Maryland Animal Law Committee*, and the *Animal Legal Defense Fund*. Mindy Felinton volunteers with the *Humane Society of the Untied States*. Ms. Felinton is also a published author of "*Mutts in Love, A Romantic Tail*."

For more information about pet trusts, Mindy Felinton can be reached at 888-5-PET-TRUST. (888-5-738-8787) or (301) 237-9696. You can also email her at mindy@FelintonLaw.com.

Be on the lookout for more Pet Care information in next month's issue!