

# COMPANION

SPECIAL 12-PAGE EDITION  
HONORING ORPHANED  
PET AWARENESS  
WEEK

IF YOU FIND IT HARD TO THINK ABOUT LIFE WITHOUT YOUR PET... IMAGINE YOUR PET'S LIFE WITHOUT YOU.

OVER 500,000 PETS ARE ORPHANED  
EACH YEAR  
DUE TO THE DEATH  
OR DISABILITY OF THEIR HUMAN  
COMPANIONS.  
2ND CHANCE 4 PETS IS  
THE FIRST ORGANIZATION  
TO FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS  
ON THIS LONG, UNRECOGNIZED  
ISSUE.

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Photos Courtesy of Clay Myers, bestfriends.org

"When my owner suddenly died, I lived in a shelter for several months. Luckily, a new family adopted me, and I have a new home."  
Jake



"I was scared when my owner moved to a nursing home and could not bring me with her, but a local rescue group helped find me a new family."  
Lucy

Your Pet's  
Photo Here

What would happen to  
YOUR pet if anything  
happened to YOU?

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

With the destruction of Hurricane Katrina in our minds in addition to remembering the tragedy of 9-11, many of us with pets as members of our families are saddened about the pets left homeless after these events. After 9-11 there were more than 800 orphaned pets in New York City. The average age of the pet owner who tragically died was only 39 years old.

Our pets depend on us – no matter how old we are. They depend on us to make sure that -should anything happen to us - they are cared for. In our newsletters and on our website [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org) we provide comprehensive information which outlines many options available to ensure the lifetime care of our pets. In this issue of *The Companion* we discuss pet trusts and present new information about veterinary schools' perpetual care programs (page 6) as well as introduce you to a wonderful small sanctuary in Michigan (page 7).

None of us can predict our future and none of us can guarantee that we will outlive our pets. Please read the information we provide and choose the best plan for your pets. It's up to each of us to prevent our pets from ending up homeless, or even worse, euthanized in a shelter at the hands of a stranger - simply because we did not take the time to make arrangements to ensure their lifetime care.

Best wishes,

Amy Shever  
Director of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance 4 Pets





Steven Baker, Esq.

### PET TRUSTS: RETURNING THE TRUST YOUR PET HAS GIVEN YOU

Who takes care of pets when they outlive their owners? Many pet owners are pondering the possibility that their pets may not be the first to pass away. Instead of leaving their fates to chance, some are setting up trusts for their furry friends.

Depending on how much protection is desired and the pets' needs, a trust can provide for the pets' care and the use of funds set aside for caring for the pets.

"One consideration is trust," says Steven Baker, a trust administration specialist and founder of [estateplanningforpets.org](http://estateplanningforpets.org). "If the person you trust to take care of your pets is not the same person you trust to take care of your estate, you may wish to set up a pet trust. A pet trust is a good idea since we can not guarantee that we will outlive our pets."

When establishing a pet trust, pet owners should consider enforceability, which "simply means that an individual could go into court to enforce the terms of the trust against the 'trustee,'" says Baker. Traditional legal trusts and statutory trusts with separate trustees and caregivers are the easiest to enforce and offer the most protection. Thirty-two states, including Washington, North Carolina, and, most recently, Hawaii, have enacted pet trust laws to help resident pet owners establish a trust. (For a complete list of pet statutes, organized by state, go to [www.estateplanningforpets.org/legal-statutes.htm](http://www.estateplanningforpets.org/legal-statutes.htm).) According to Baker, even pet owners who live in states without pet trust laws can create traditional trusts that name "...a person to watch over the trust as 'trustee,' a caregiver as 'beneficiary,' and the pets and any caregiver funds as 'trust property.'"

Owners who cannot rely on any one person to take care of the pets can establish a trust allotting funds for prepaid care at certain special facilities. Advertised as cat or dog "retirement" communities, some of these facilities provide good environments for pets. Of course, they cannot provide the high level of attention and care some pets receive in a home environment; however, while they are not perfect substitutes, they are useful alternatives (for a comprehensive listing of small sanctuaries and perpetual care programs go to [www.petguardian.com](http://www.petguardian.com) (PetGuardian Community > Alternatives to Pet Trusts).

For more information about estate planning for pets, please contact Steven Baker at [info@estateplanningforpets.org](mailto:info@estateplanningforpets.org). He has a genuine interest in helping animals and their caregivers, as shown by his membership in the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Arizona and his popularity as a speaker on the topic. Steven's comprehensive, easy-to-understand website, [www.estateplanningforpets.org](http://www.estateplanningforpets.org), has a variety of tools for pet owners and lawyers alike. Be sure to visit the website's "frequently asked questions" page, which answers important questions for conscientious pet owners about estate planning for their pets.

### THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Being a "grass roots", nonprofit organization, we are grateful and overwhelmed with the support we have received. We appreciate your time and contributions. No donation is too small!

**Thank you!** Ameriquest • Petsport USA • Clay Myers • Ivonne Karstedt • WebEx Linda Lewis • Barbara McCann • Jaspal Singh • Michelle Erlichman • Ketchum PR Shervelle Marquina • Cecelia Rose Foundation • M. Zechlin • W. McConnell • Peggy Hoyt • E. Bosch • S. Flippo • N.D. Marek • M. Covington • Mr. and Mrs. Meester M. Lowe • E. Vichules • Duncan Strauss • Gerry Buyer • GOOGLE • Aline Soules Angela Wagner • Annette Cupan • Annie • Bryan McNeal • Carol Armstrong Cheryl Berry • Cheryl Romano • Clare Keating • Dan G • Dan Leister • Deborah Adams • Deborah Cunningham • Diane Welter • Elizabeth Olson • Jana Owens Jennifer McManus • Jennifer Moulton • Jill Cline • Ken Becker • Laura Bixler Lauren Bundy • Laurie Ryan-Day • Lisa Bradley • Lisa Frederick • Maggie Parke Manisha Subrananian • Mark Loughry • Martha Xenias • Michele Moyer • Michelle San Pedro • Nickolay Kuzovlev • Nicole Boals • Patricia Clerico-Parham • Roger Chapanis • Ruth Olsen • Shannon Berry • Tracey Beverly • Kathleen Davidson Jared Moon • Thom Howard • Beth Ellen McKinney Cameron Beatty • Carol Klavon • Deborah Vassar • Elaine White • Jacklyn Smoot Katharine Moore • Lan Nguyen • Melody Chu • Julie Campbell • Denise Griffiths • Dan Vold • Beth Pernerewski • Piper Crussell • Wanda Clark • Lisa Moss • Laura Noss • The Volds • Amy Farnham • 8 in 1 Pet Products • Julia Farmer • Tom Wetzal • Tam Patane Lynne & Katie Haufman • Ken Podgorsack • Lola Mitchell • Yusuf Ezy • Gentry



**Thank you, Ketchum Team, for your help with Orphaned Pet Awareness Week!**

Carolyn Chiang, Drew McGowan, Emily Fuleihan, Gretchen Bruksch, Kevin Oates, Kristen Carriker, Layla Azimi, Louise Dolby, Michael Rosenthal, Molly Strobel, Ramona Nourizad, Tracie Simmons

## COMPONENTS OF A LIFETIME CARE PLAN

Our pets do so much for us, yet few of us have done anything to ensure the long-term care for them. Having a lifetime care plan for your pets will provide peace of mind by insuring that the animals you love will always be cared for.

A comprehensive care plan includes:

**Caregivers** – Identify people who could step in to take care of your pets temporarily, in the hours, days, or weeks after an emergency, or who would adopt your pets should you die or become incapacitated. If you cannot find friends, relatives, or neighbors to care for your pets, your veterinarian, local pet sitters and animal rescue groups may be able to help you locate potential caregivers.

**Instructions** -- How do you want your pets to live – in another household or in a sanctuary? What kind of special care do your pets require? Do you want your pets to stay together? To make sure that your wishes are followed, your instructions must be written down and someone must know where to find them.

**Financing** – You pay for food, shelter, supplies and medical care for your pets. Those expenses won't stop if you aren't here to pay them. Set aside funds for temporary or foster care, transportation to a new home and the ongoing care for your pets.

### For more information:

[www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org),  
Ph (408) 871-1133

[www.petguardian.com](http://www.petguardian.com),  
toll free Ph (888) 843-4040

## GOING TO THE DOGS

By Thrupthi Reddy, senior editor, *Trusts & Estates* magazine  
Reprinted by special permission

Chances are you'll never have a client like Doris Duke (if you did, you wouldn't be looking for wealth management tips on the Web). But it is increasingly likely that you will run into high-net-worth clients who, like the fabled tobacco heiress, want to make sure their favorite pets are taken care of after the owners die. Duke, who died in 1993, left a \$1.5 billion estate, which included a \$100,000 trust for the care of her dog, Minnie.



Pet trusts, which got their start in California (where else?) in 1980, have now been recognized in 32 states and are regarded as an important estate-planning tool -- even for middle-income clients.

Many estate planners and lawyers are paying attention, too. Last week, the top experts in animal law shared their insights into pet trusts as part of a "Special Committee on Animals and the Law," during the New York State Bar Association's 128th Annual Meeting. The panelists explained that a client cannot name an animal directly as a beneficiary in his will -- but there are ways to ensure that the animal is cared for after the owner's death.

Like other forms of trusts, the pet trust comes in two basic forms --testamentary, which kick in when the owner dies, and inter vivos, which are used while the donor is still alive. Elderly clients, for example, may want to create an inter vivos trust to provide for the animal if the owner falls sick or has to move to a nursing home.

When setting up a pet trust, it is vital to name a caretaker and a trustee to oversee how the funds are divided (one person can handle both responsibilities). To make sure that these people do their job, pet trust laws allow owners also to name a court enforcer who will tell the court if the trustee is noncompliant. Any assets that remain after the pet's death should be left to designated beneficiaries. Panelist Frances Carlisle, a trust and estates lawyer in New York, suggests making the client's favorite animal charity or sanctuary the remainderman.

Normally, pet owners leave money to pay for Rufus' chow and dog-walker. But one of the hottest trends in post-mortem pet care is adding real estate to the pet trust. Carlisle reports seeing people bequeath homes to pets -- especially when there are several animals. The idea is to keep the animals together in familiar surroundings. The caretaker is then either paid a salary from the trust's funds or allowed to live rent-free in the residence.

Rules against overfunding vary from state to state, but all the statutes are based on the general principal of "reasonableness." For example New York State Estate Powers & Trusts Law Section 7-6.1 (d) states: "A court may reduce the amount of the property transferred if it determines that amount substantially exceeds the amount required for the intended use."

So how does a planner figure what is "reasonable"? Carlisle recommends about \$5,000 for everything but housing, for every year of the animal's life (based on the species' life expectancy). And don't go

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)



PetGuardian

Providing loving care for your pet is a lifelong commitment. Who will be there to honor this commitment if you no longer can?

Year after year, thousands of helpless pets are euthanized after their owners have died. Visit us at [www.petguardian.com](http://www.petguardian.com) or call 1.888.843.4040 to find out how to establish an affordable PetGuardian Pet Trust Plan to ensure the lifelong care of your pet.



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[WWW.PETGUARDIAN.COM](http://WWW.PETGUARDIAN.COM)

## UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO: PET HOSPICE CARE

"I shall be near them in their hour of greatest need—a companion and friend when their time has come." - *Mission statement excerpt, Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets*

When my little Lucy was fighting her last battle, caring for her consumed my focus, my energy, and my time. The two of us came to live in our own special world during those last months of her life. It was richly rewarding. Our bond deepened to something far beyond anything that I have ever experienced with an animal. It was also stressful: sleeplessness, anxiety, guilt, the cost of ongoing veterinary care, no social life, and difficulty in focusing on my job. Was it worth it? Absolutely, and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

The winged angel adorning the homepage of the Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets (NHFP) tenderly cradles a dog and a cat in her arms, shepherding them, we hope, to some better—and less pain-filled—place. For you, left behind and grieving, there is the comfort of knowing that your pet lived as long as it could, gently cared for at home, and then allowed to slip away when it was ready to pass.

If euthanasia on a clinic table is something you do not wish for your pet, then you will be glad to learn that the idea of pet hospice care is gaining widespread acceptance. The NHFP is the first such official, nonprofit organization. Its creed, written in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, commits its founders to encourage pet owners who do not wish their beloved companions to be put down or put down too soon, to consider an alternative: keeping your pet at home, under the care of a veterinarian and with proper pain management, until it succumbs to a natural death.

### WHAT IS PET HOSPICE CARE?

Hospice care for your pet is like human hospice care. It allows your dying pet to stay at home, cared for by you in its final days, rather than in an unfamiliar facility, having its life ended too soon by premature euthanasia. Pet hospice care does not seek to cure but to care for your pet when death is imminent and inevitable. Pet hospice care also provides the support you need to walk with your old friend during these final days and help you to accept the passing of your beloved companion.

### WHY CHOOSE PET HOSPICE CARE?

If your pet is grievously ill or injured or is in unmanageable pain, or if you and your family simply cannot give your pet the extra care it needs at this stage of its life, pet hospice care may not be the best choice. But many proponents of hospice care believe that this special time can enhance and deepen the love and friendship between you and your pet, and teach everyone involved about this important part of the life cycle that all living beings share.

### WHEN IS PET HOSPICE CARE THE BEST CHOICE?

Pet hospice care can be a good choice if your pet is suffering from a chronic condition such as liver or kidney failure, leukemia, or even some cancers. Cats in particular, because they are such home-loving creatures, should be considered for hospice care. Conditions such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), for example, can be treated at home. Pets don't really want to go anywhere else; they want to stay in the comfort of the home they have known all their lives. You need guidance to make the best decision for your pet, starting with your veterinarian.

## CHOOSING A VETERINARIAN

You need to find a vet who is open to and knowledgeable about hospice care. Your vet needs to work with you to provide at-home care, and give you the training you need to attend to your pet's needs properly. Your vet must also be open to phone calls at odd hours and possible home visits if your pet becomes too ill to travel. In the end, you may choose euthanasia, but it will be a considered choice, and carried out at home. You will know you have done all you could to make your pet's passing as natural and peaceful as possible.



## PET HOSPICE CARE IS NOT FOR EVERYONE

It's important to recognize that pet hospice care is not for everyone. The burden of care for a terminally ill pet can be heavy, and seem to drag on. Inevitably, the financial costs of this choice are high. But more and more veterinarians favor pet hospice care. Dr. Cheryl Scott, a veterinarian hospice provider in California, says that "animals in hospice care seem to die peacefully in their sleep," and that hospice care promotes "quality of life at the end of life." She advises euthanasia only when that quality of life is gone. Dr. Tami Shearer, founder of the Pet Hospice and Education Center in the Midwest, approaches pet care with a holistic attitude, offering classes on how to care for pets over the age of five and how to recognize when a pet is in pain. She believes this approach teaches both children and adults to be compassionate caregivers.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO CONSIDER

- Hospice care will take a lot of your time, energy, and emotional stamina.
- It may require difficult procedures such as giving injections, placing IVs, dealing with blood, feces, or other matters. But as you become more comfortable caring in this way for your pet, you may find that an even greater intimacy grows between you.
- Plan ahead; don't wait until your pet is old and infirm to consider your options.
- Involve your family and willing friends in the decision to care for your pet. You will need them both for their support and to give you respite from care giving.
- Be sure about your veterinarian. He or she will be a critical support during this time. It's important that your vet understand that you are no longer trying to cure, but only to comfort your pet in these last days. For some vets, this may be difficult to accept.
- Create a file on your pet and keep meticulous records about its habits, medications, health indicators, and anything else that will help others who might step in to relieve you briefly of the care for your pet.
- You are the eyes and ears for your veterinarian, now that your pet is at home and you are providing most of the care. Watch for any changes in weight, eating, or activity patterns; incontinence; isolation; changes in sleeping, vision, or hearing; or any other behaviors that might suggest that your pet needs more, or different, medication or attention.

Whatever decision you make, it's good to know that you have the option of hospice care. The hospice care approach can allow your companion to pass away in comfort and surrounded by love, and give you a chance to say good-bye as you are ready. It can transform the sometimes frightening experience of final illness and the loss of a beloved friend into a life-affirming journey.

## RESOURCES THAT CAN HELP

American Animal Hospital Foundation (AAHF)

The AAHF website maintains a Library, which includes a link to "Hospice Care—Ending Life with Compassion" [www.healthypet.com](http://www.healthypet.com)

Animal Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians (AAHABV) [www.aahabv.org/Hospice.htm](http://www.aahabv.org/Hospice.htm)

Animal Hospice: Compassionate Crossings (AHCC)  
Wendy Collins, Sheila Summers, Andria Friesen, Founders  
[www.animalhospice.org](http://www.animalhospice.org)

American Association of House Call Veterinarians (AAHV) [www.athomevet.org](http://www.athomevet.org)

Nikki Hospice Foundation for Pets (NHFP) [www.pethospice.org](http://www.pethospice.org)

Pet Hospice and Education Center  
Dr. Tami Shearer, Founder  
[www.shearerpethospital.com/info.html](http://www.shearerpethospital.com/info.html)

If you're a veterinarian interested in hospice care: visit the following website <http://members.aol.com/guyh77/hospice.html>



## ENDLESS LOVE, ENDLESS CARE: AN OVERVIEW OF PERPETUAL CARE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT VETERINARY SCHOOLS

When pet guardians die, their pets often sense the death, grieve the loss, and feel the loneliness that comes from the absence of their guardians. They may hide, moan, or howl when they realize the people who loved them are gone. Pets may even lose the



desire to eat when they no longer see the ones they love.

Many pet owners try to minimize this loss and loneliness by

making long-term care plans for their pets. They try to ensure that, in the event of their death or disability, their animals will not be neglected, abused, or abandoned. If unable to find a friend or family member to commit to caring for their pets, many pet owners look for an alternative solution that can help.

Some veterinary schools now offer “perpetual pet care” programs. These programs promise lifelong care for pets whose owners have passed away or become disabled. Using endowments set up by the pet owners, the schools provide shelter, food, and medical attention for the duration of the animal’s life.

Perpetual pet care programs are designed to benefit all involved. Veterinary students gain invaluable hands-on experience by treating the animals. Through the endowments, schools often receive added funding for education and training. The programs may also encourage older or those with chronic illnesses to feel more confident bringing pets into their lives. Most importantly, pet owners gain the comfort of knowing that should anything happen to them, their pets will continue to receive the care they deserve.

Unfortunately, most of these programs are fairly costly. For example, the Perpetual Pet Care Program at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine requires a minimum endowment of \$25,000 for the care of small companion animals. For large animals such as horses, the program requests a minimum of \$50,000 and up to \$75,000 if the pet has special needs. According to Kansas State, this money is used to “attend to all the emotional and physical needs of each pet until the appropriate and carefully screened adoptive home can be identified.” Often, any money left over at the end of the pet’s life is donated to the university itself. Other programs, such as The Peace of Mind Program at Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine, require similar fees.

Other veterinary school programs have more flexible payment options, but may provide a different level of care. At Texas A&M University, the Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Program bases its cost scale on the age of the owner at the time of enrollment and offers steep discounts for “paid-up” endowments. The TLC program at the University of California at Davis will enroll a pet for \$1,000, but requires \$30,000 to care for the pet over its lifetime. These programs have the pets housed in a center among many other animals and have a changing group of caregivers rather than providing an adoptive home with individual attention. If an animal has belonged to someone all its life, it may find this experience traumatic.

As the demand for perpetual pet care grows, other veterinary colleges are taking notice. Spencer Faircloth at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine sees a great need for a program that can serve the many retired pet owners in his area. He plans to start a similar program in Gainesville, Florida.

Those who love animals are glad that

these programs exist and that the options for perpetual pet care are continuing to grow. However, responsible pet owners must consider the benefits and drawbacks of such programs before making a commitment that will affect the long-term health and welfare of their pets.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS CONTACT:

#### **Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine Peace of Mind Program, <http://www.vet.purdue.edu/devel/giving.html>**

Cindy Lyons • email: [lyonscl@purdue.edu](mailto:lyonscl@purdue.edu);  
Phone 1-800-830-0104/ 765-494-0791  
School of Veterinary Medicine - Purdue University  
1240 Lynn Hall, Rm. 1177A  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1240

#### **Kansas State Univ. College of Veterinary Medicine Perpetual Pet Care Program, <http://www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/index.htm>**

Myrna Gleue or  
Tim Chapman, email: [mgleue@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:mgleue@vet.k-state.edu);  
Phone 785-532-4013/ 785-532-4833  
FAX 785-532-4002

K-State College of Veterinary Medicine  
Office of Alumni and Development  
1700 Denison Avenue – 103 Trotter Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

#### **University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine**

**PerPETtual Care Program**, <http://www.cvm.umn.edu/devalumni/perpetualcare/home.html>  
Rob Nordin, email: [nordi053@umn.edu](mailto:nordi053@umn.edu);  
Phone 612-624-1247; Fax: 612-624-3007  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
1365 Gortner Avenue, 410 VTH, St. Paul, MN 55108

#### **Texas A&M University - The Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center**

<http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/petcare/index.htm>; Phone 979-845-1188 Fax: 979-845-1425  
Dr. Henry L. Presnal or Mrs. Ellie Greenbaum,  
Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care  
Center at Texas A&M University  
906 University Drive West (Stotzer Parkway)  
College Station, Texas 77843

#### **UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine The Tender Loving Care for Pets Program**

[www.tlcforpets.org](http://www.tlcforpets.org); Phone 530-757-5787  
Richard Timmins, DVM,  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California  
One Shields Avenue  
Davis, CA 95616

## MICHIGAN'S FOR THE LOVE OF CATS (TLC): MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE CAT AT A TIME

Most people know that TLC stands for Tender Loving Care. But TLC also has at least one other meaning; "For The Love of Cats". With this goal in mind, the Zimmer Foundation in Ann Arbor, Michigan, founded TLC in 1980. This well-organized, highly diversified organization's mission is to "reduce and eventually eliminate the use of euthanasia for feline population control."

Estimates of how many cats are homeless or abandoned in Washtenaw County, Michigan, amount to more than 60,000 homeless and several hundred abandoned each year. Because the county's existing system is not equipped to handle such a huge number, shelters become overloaded and are forced to euthanize the surplus of cats.

But TLC has developed several programs to alleviate the overpopulation of cats in Washtenaw County. The organization sees the problem as twofold: too few homes and too many births. TLC's programs work to increase the number of homes for cats and to decrease the number of births.

## INCREASING THE NUMBER OF HOMES

TLC has already taken action, providing a farm/home for unadopted cats. The program houses a cage-free colony of adoptable barn cats and elderly companion cats, two types routinely euthanized in shelters. The cats also serve as lap cats to brighten the days of nursing-home and assisted-living residents who visit the farm for "cat therapy."

One plan to increase the number of homes available is to convince landlords to allow cats into more apartments, especially as companions to the elderly. Fewer than one-third of the people over 65 in that district have pets. In all, there are approximately 5,500 homes that do not have pets. If only 20 percent could be encouraged to adopt a pet, that would create 1,100 homes.

For those who think that they may be too old to take on a cat, TLC provides an Older Cats for Older People Program (OCOPP). Orphaned elderly cats with lots of lap-sitting experience are placed into the homes of seniors living alone in the community. Recipients may worry that there may come a time when they can no longer adequately care for their pet and are concerned for its welfare should this happen. Not to worry: OCOPP is a Foster Care Program. TLC retains the responsibility (and costs) of veterinary care, and the cats return to TLC if the foster parents can no longer care for them.

Surviving cats can be a heartbreaking problem when illness or death leaves no one to care for the animals. For cat owners who are financially able and wish to provide a quality environment for their cat, TLC provides a Cat Retirement Community program. Funding must be provided through legal means and must be arranged in advance.

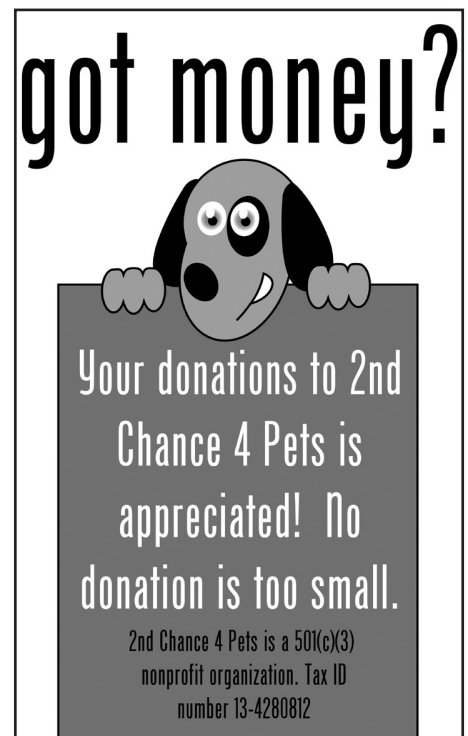
TLC also provides a support network to help people who feel they must give up their cats. Life events like having a baby, moving, chronic health problems of the owners, or cat behavioral problems are just some of the reasons why people may need to give up their cats. Addressing the issue to avoid cats being sent to a shelter or abandoned is often handled through phone calls, handouts, web site information, workshops and seminars.

## REDUCING THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS

One approach to the high numbers of births in the cat population is a trap/neuter/return (TNR) program to sterilize and vaccinate feral cat colonies as rapidly as they can find people to manage them. Managed TNR provides the only successful way to limit the birth of the vast number of kittens, repopulating the colonies with sterilized adults, and keeping out unsterilized intruders. The managers also provide food, water, and shelter for the cats. This improves their lives by eliminating the stress of having to forage and find shelter.

## HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

TLC also has many volunteer opportunities and offers veterinary scholarship programs. Find more information about TLC and its programs, including detailed requirements for scholarship applicants, at [www.TLConline.org](http://www.TLConline.org). Contact Kitty Zimmer at [kzimmer@TLConline.org](mailto:kzimmer@TLConline.org), or phone 734-663-8000. TLC's address is The Zimmer Foundation, PO Box 130944, Ann Arbor, MI 48113.



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## PET IDENTIFICATION – YOUR MISSING PET’S TICKET HOME

If you’re a pet owner, few events can cause more panic or heartache than discovering that your pet is missing. For instance, I lost my dog for 10 hours recently, and I was frantic while it was missing. But thanks to having a current, accurate Pet identification, my pet was found and returned to me relatively quickly.

Sadly few lost pets are found. However, you can increase the likelihood of recovering a lost pet by putting a proper identification on him or her. Several options exist for identifying pets including I.D. tags, microchips, tattoos, and national pet registries.

**The I.D. tag** has been around since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and it’s the first thing someone looks for when they find a pet. So consider a tag first. The I.D. tag should be highly visible and easy to read, even at night. If a tag is difficult to read or someone has to remove it to read it, the results could be disastrous if your pet gets away.

Although the I.D. tag is effective, it’s of little use unless it’s current. Too often, a pet is found wearing a tag with information that is illegible or out of date. So here is a helpful tip: when you check your smoke alarm batteries twice a year, also check your pet’s I.D. tag. Be sure the tag is in good shape and that the information on it remains accurate.

Although ease of use makes the I.D. tag the best first line of defense, it is not enough to protect your pets. Pets lose their collars and tags all the time. Therefore, you also should consider having your pet **permanently identified**. Two common forms of permanent identification are the tattoo and the microchip.

**Tattoos** have long been used for permanent identification. However, they usually contain information that is impractical or outdated. For instance, your phone number and area code may change, and your driver’s license or social security numbers aren’t useful unless you are missing or wanted for something (plus, publishing them makes you vulnerable to identity theft). Finally, the codes breeders use to tattoo pets before selling them are known only to the breeders – no one else. Therefore, tattoos are not a reliable way to identify pets.

The most practical form of permanent pet identification is the **microchip**, a tiny transponder that is inserted under your pet’s skin between its shoulder blades. Each microchip contains a unique identification number, like a barcode, that can be read using a scanning device.

The microchip doesn’t emit a signal that tells you where your pet is, nor is it linked up with your local police or any other organization. However, it *can* save your lost pet’s life. How? If your pet ends up in a shelter or a veterinarian’s office and has

no visible form of identification, your pet often can be identified if it has a microchip implanted.

Of course, not all shelters and veterinarians are equipped to scan for microchips, and not all scanners can detect all microchips or read them accurately. But having a microchip is your best insurance against losing your pet forever.

Here’s another tip: animal shelters often implant microchips in their adoptable animals. So if you adopt your pet from a shelter or Humane Society, your pet already may have microchip identification! This is just another benefit of adopting a pet rather than purchasing it from a breeder or pet store.

Knowing the limitations of I.D. tags, tattoos, and microchips, you might consider one other option – the Pet Protector System. This 24-hour, nationwide service works like “9-1-1” for pets. To learn more about this program, go to [www.help4pets.com](http://www.help4pets.com) on the Internet or call 1-800-HELP-4-PETS.

The bottom line is that you cannot count on any form of pet identification to ensure the safe return of a pet, but an I.D. tag plus a permanent I.D. can be your pet’s best hope for a **quick ticket home**. So be diligent. Make certain that your pet wears visible and current identification at all times, even in the house. And give serious thought to micro-chipping your pet.



## FIND OR PREVENT A LOST PET

- Make it easy - use ID Tags and microchips
- Search high and low especially for scared cats
- Create the perfect sign - use large color photo
- Offer a reward for your missing pet
- Call the experts - Animal Shelters/Animal Control  
([www.pets.911.com](http://www.pets.911.com) enter your zip code)

More tips: <http://lostapet.org/index.shtml> (reprinted from Reader’s Digest)

## 2ND CHANCE 4 PETS EMERGENCY ID CARDS

### What are Emergency ID and Wallet

**Cards?** These cards are provided by 2nd Chance 4 Pets to post in your home and carry with you in your wallet. This information will alert others to be aware of the pets in your home and who should be contacted to take care of your pets in case of an emergency.

For more information or to download cards from our website, go to [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org).

## ANGEL'S GATE, A HAVEN OF HOPE

Brutus is a Rottweiler who joined Angel's Gate Hospice and Rehabilitation Center for Animals in the summer of 2002. He had been out walking when he suddenly collapsed. An examination by the vet discovered that Brutus had a lesion to the C3-C4 vertebrate. His family vowed to do whatever was necessary to help Brutus recover. But after several weeks and slow progress, they became discouraged by their ability to help Brutus and brought him to Angel's Gate. There, Susan Marino spent endless hours working with Brutus. She used hydrotherapy—therapeutic use of water—to help stimulate Brutus's limbs. In the pool, he began to be able to use his legs to swim. Miraculously, after ten months, Brutus started to walk again thanks to his determined spirit and the encouragement of the staff members at Angel's Gate.

Pet hospice centers are a relatively new development in the world of veterinary medicine. They are places designed for animals with special needs, such as terminal illnesses or physical challenges. Animals can become residents of these centers to live out their lives in a loving environment. Angel's Gate has spearheaded this mission as an effort of compassion for all animals.

Susan Marino founded Angel's Gate Hospice and Rehabilitation Center in 1992. Just six years later, it became a nonprofit, first-of-its-kind residential hospice for animals. Susan has more than 30 years of experience as a registered nurse and specializes in many forms of holistic therapy. Her partner, Victor LaBruna, worked with people with special needs before focusing his talents on animals. He works primarily behind the scenes through habitat construction, web management—and most importantly, direct care of animals.

What is really special about Angel's Gate is that the animals are free to roam the living quarters, which helps them adjust to life away from their family. It offers a home environment that allows the animals to feel safe and comfortable. While at Angel's Gate, the animals receive the best care possible. Staff members use physical and hydrotherapy to rehabilitate animals. The therapy, along with the necessary supplements, medication, and love, is the key to optimizing the quality of life of these special creatures.

An animal's needs can sometimes become too great for its owner. However, just because these animals have special needs does not mean their lives must come to an end. Pet hospice centers are a great alternative to euthanasia and in-home hospice care for animals with special needs. At Angel's Gate, animals live out the rest of their lives on their own terms. The animals are cared for and loved in an unconditional manner. It is this compassion that allows the animals to remain comfortable and happy. Angel's Gate provides each animal with emotional consistency. All the staff members truly love and cherish each life.

For more information, please visit [www.angelsgate.org](http://www.angelsgate.org). You can also read about Angel's Gate by purchasing "Getting Lucky" by Susan Marino available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Contact information for Angel's Gate: 18 Josephine Lane, Fort Salonga, NY 11768, Phone (631) 269-7641, email [susan@angelsgate.org](mailto:susan@angelsgate.org)

EMERGENCY IDENTIFICATION CARD  
In case of emergency, please contact the caregivers listed on this card to make sure my pets are taken care of.  
I have \_\_\_ pets in my home.



My Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Animal \_\_\_\_\_  
Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Animal \_\_\_\_\_  
Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Animal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY IDENTIFICATION CARD  
In case of emergency, please contact the caregivers listed on this card to make sure my pets are taken care of.

### Emergency Contact Information for my Pets



Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Our Alternate Phone Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Pets in our home \_\_\_\_\_

Location of leashes, food, medicine \_\_\_\_\_

VETERINARIAN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

After-hours pet emergency phone number \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY PET CAREGIVERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



Cathie Myers and Star

### IF YOU CAN TEACH A CHILD TO CARE . . .

Best Friends Animal Society of Utah believes we can build a better world by

learning how to treat animals with kindness, dignity, and respect. And if you chat with Cathie Myers, Director of Education at Best Friends, she'll give you lots of examples of this philosophy in action.

"My personal feeling is, if you can teach a child to care about a dog or a cat, to have respect for other creatures, that's going to translate to their whole lives and to their treatment of other people, too," Cathie told 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance 4 Pets in a recent interview about some of the wonderful programs at Best Friends.

In this case, Cathie was describing the Humane Education program she coordinates. The concept of working with animals to teach people about the value of life originated with the National Parent-Teacher Association. Humane educators work with schools or other local organizations to effect positive change in individual lives or even entire communities. At Best Friends, they've not only put the concept into a full-blown action program, but they've also added their own special twist.

"Our Humane Education program isn't typical because we have a large sanctuary, we're in a rural location, and so we don't visit schools often," Cathie told us. "Instead, we have kids come here one day, a week or even longer."

Further, the Best Friends' program reaches out to at-risk youth, having them come to the sanctuary for an extended stay. In their time at the sanctuary, through caring for, and relating to, the animals, the youth often experience healing themselves.

"I've heard kids say they 'never knew' they could do something worthwhile," says Cathie, "and then they come here and see the animals. A lot of these kids have had struggles just like many of the animals here at the sanctuary. The animals—mistreated, misunderstood—have had judgments passed on them because of their behaviors, and then they come here and they're not judged."

"The same happens with the kids. We don't judge them either. And so the kids make strong connections with the program. Then, they choose a dog to care for, and learn about positive reinforcement, training, and respect. And journal the whole experience."

What's the impact on the kids? Here are some of their comments about the program:

- "These animals have these diseases, but they just go on with their lives" (youth's observation about the resilience of abused animals)
- "You spend so much time feeling like you're doing things wrong, and then you do something right" (youth comment about caring for an animal)
- "I never knew I could do anything worthwhile" (child commenting about her ability to care)

"We're amazed at the end of every session," says Cathie, "by what these kids say and what they write in their journals. They see a three-legged dog or blind cat, and it's not saying "hey, wait a minute," or getting angry about the situation or feeling self-pity—that's a great lesson. It's an incredibly wonderful program for kids facing challenges with their lives."

### TEACHING KIDS TO CARE

Some of the things kids need to learn about caring for animals might surprise you. Children often need to be taught that animals have feelings, or that they

experience pain. If you plan to get a pet for your child, here are some other things you may need to teach them about caring for an animal:

- Animals depend completely on us to care for their every need
- Pets take time—not just to walk them or feed them—but to develop a meaningful relationship with them, and make them our friends
- Just like kids, animals need a place of their own where they can go to spend quiet time, or be alone for awhile
- Animals need fresh water every day
- Animals have to have special food (not just junk food)

Want to learn more about the Humane Education program at Best Friends? Check out their website at [www.bestfriends.org](http://www.bestfriends.org).

**DO THE  
CHAINED DOGS  
BREAK YOUR HEART?**



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P.O. Box 23, Tipton, PA 16684

## MAKING A LIVING LOVING ANIMALS

Take the path that your heart tells you to follow, say career advisors, because passion is the key to success. Those with a passion for caring for animals can follow this advice easily because there are many ways to make a living loving animals.

Those who love to touch, nurture and play with animals can enjoy several careers that do not require much training. For instance, they can set up businesses as dog walkers or pet sitters, and others can work in animal shelters. These positions usually do not require formal certification, but may require some training. Alternatively, those who want to work as animal groomers or equine massage therapists will need formal education, sometimes offered through schools and professional organizations. Such educational programs usually can be completed in less than a year; however, zoos often require a college degree.

Those who want to heal, treat, and care for animals may consider careers as veterinary assistants or veterinarians. Veterinary assistants can start working with animals without formal education -- while they receive most of their training on the job. Veterinary technicians can be certified to perform many important tasks in two to four years; however, learning to meet the complex medical needs of many different animals requires years of education. Veterinarians must graduate from an accredited college and earn a state license.

Those who want to use their academic skills and intellectual abilities to help animals can work in a variety of environmental fields. Ecologists, environmental managers and environmental chemists help make the world safer and healthier for animals by doing

research and affecting governmental and corporate policies. These professionals study relationships among living things, including the effects of changes on the environment or the effects of new medicines. Most of these positions require advanced degrees and years of research.

Those who love being outdoors can consider working with animals as park rangers, wildlife rehabilitators and wildlife researchers. As ecotourism continues to grow, some may be able to work with animals in the wild as eco-tour guides. Others may be interested in working on farms and ranches.

A passion for animals can lead to many careers in animal care. Opportunities in such careers probably will increase over the next several years because of the growth of the pet population and our awareness of the need to protect all living things.

## GOING TO THE DOGS - (CONT. FROM PAGE 3)







overboard on the housing, Carlisle says. Add a clause to the trust instructing the trustee to sell the Park Avenue penthouse and use the money to buy a smaller house for the pets, some place more modest.

If setting up a trust and residence for a pet seems ridiculous, there are alternatives. Clients can donate money to an animal sanctuary on the condition that the sanctuary cares for the pet until the end of his life. This is an attractive option for owners of long-lived pets, like parrots and horses, because pet trusts expire after the 21 years (if the pet hasn't expired first) in most jurisdictions (except the District of Columbia).

There also are pet retirement homes springing up around the country. That's right, pet retirement homes. These are for-profit ventures where pets can live out their golden years. For one nearest you, check with The Association of Sanctuaries (TAOS), in Stillwater, Minn. This not-for-profit organization, founded in 1992, accredits retirement homes for wild farm animals (for example, those rescued from a circus or zoo) and all household pets.

There are other ways wealthy clients can plan to take care of pets from beyond the grave. "They're doing everything it takes to ensure they leave behind a substantial amount of money, and lately, they've started taking out super-expensive life insurance policies, making the pet trusts the beneficiaries after their death." Insurance policies allow your client to name his estate as the beneficiary; the estate then funds the pet trust; the pet trust then takes care of the animal. It may not make you rich, but helping your client plan for his pooch can help you be a full-service wealth advisor.

## COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE COMPANION

-  Special Report: What happened to the animal victims of Hurricane Katrina?
-  Dealing with the emotions after the death of a companion animal
-  Dogs Deserve Better: one organization working to provide a better life to dogs on chains
-  The latest facts about animals euthanized in the United States; how can you help?
-  2nd Chance 4 Pets: our Companions for Seniors Program and what other organizations are doing to help seniors adopt homeless pets
-  More information about lifetime care options for your pets

## 2ND CHANCE 4 PETS: CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**September 12-18**, Orphaned Pet Awareness Week held in memory of the pets that were orphaned when their owners died as a result of the tragedy on September 11, 2003. Our goal is to focus attention on caring for pets when their owners of any age encounter tragedy. Mayor Gavin Newsom has recognized this effort by proclamation of this week in the city of San Francisco.

**September 16**, Presentation at the Sunnyvale Senior Center as part of 2nd Chance 4 Pets' Companions for Seniors Program

**September 17**, 2nd Chance 4 Pets volunteers will be participating in San Jose's Bark in the Park

**October 5**, Director of 2nd Chance 4 Pets, Amy Shever, will be presenting at the annual conference of the Pet Food Institute in Washington D.C.

**October 14**, Presentation at the Los Altos Senior Center as part of 2nd Chance 4 Pets' Companions for Seniors Program.

For more information go to [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org) or write to [info@2ndchance4pets.org](mailto:info@2ndchance4pets.org)

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS OF ORPHANED PET AWARENESS WEEK!



If you would like to donate to 2nd Chance 4 Pets, please use the enclosed envelope or please visit our website, [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org), where you can donate through Network for Good. Simply click on the "Donate Now" button. 2nd Chance 4 Pets is a 501(c)3 organization.



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