DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Every now and then we are fortunate to cross paths with a unique person that we know immediately will have an impact on our life. I met Ken Becker almost two years ago and realized that Ken was a truly wonderful and unique person.

Since entering into retirement, Ken spends most of his waking moments volunteering with three or four nonprofit organizations. Additionally, Ken and his partner Nancy opened their hearts and home to take in two older “special needs” dogs. Both of these dogs were left alone in their separate homes for three months after their human companions had died and received very little human attention until Ken came to their rescue.

The complete story about Ken and his family is on the following page. Ken's story might inspire you to adopt an older pet, perhaps one that has been left behind after his or her owner has died. I also hope that the article will motivate you to identify a committed caregiver, write down the instructions necessary for caring for your pets and set aside a fund so that should anything happen to you, your animals will continue to receive the love, attention and care they are used to you providing.

Best wishes from the 2nd Chance 4 Pets team,

Amy Shever
2nd Chance 4 Pets

If you would like to donate to 2nd Chance 4 Pets, please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website, 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. Our tax ID number 13-4280812.
THE FRIENDS LEFT BEHIND

Death is a subject most of us would prefer to avoid, yet we wouldn’t dream of leaving our families unprotected. Futures are planned, wills are thoughtfully prepared, and life goes on. Except sometimes it doesn’t and the ones closest to us are often left behind, scared, alone, and confused. Sixty-three percent of U.S. households include a pet, but how many of us have taken the time to consider their needs in the event of our demise?

Sweet Pea’s Tale

In 1999, while volunteering for Companion Animal Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.), a volunteer rescue and adoption agency in San Jose, California, Ken Becker and Nancy Luter fell in love with an eight-year-old Shih Tzu mix that was hard of hearing and showing the first signs of cataracts. Ken and Nancy decided to dedicate themselves to ensuring that dogs are given the old age we humans imagine for ourselves, growing older surrounded by those who love us.

Willie’s Tale

“When somebody above must have been looking down on us,” Ken told 2nd Chance 4 Pets. While scrolling through pages and pages of pets on an animal rescue website, Ken came across Willie’s story. He was touched by the plight of the little blind terrier mix, who was eleven years old, and resembled a little bear.

Willie’s previous owner had passed away leaving him alone and ailing. At first Willie remained in his home where someone stopped by once a day to feed him. This continued for three long months.

Blood in Willie’s urine caused the family to take Willie in for an exam. A routine medical exam showed 27 stones in his urinary tract. The surgery to restore Willie’s health was $5,000. Things looked grim, but the owner’s family stepped in and donated part of their inheritance to pay for Willie’s surgery.

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! Animal Welfare Trust • PetSmart • Ameriquest • Petsport USA • Clay Myers WebEx • Amy Farnham • Barbara McCann • Michelle Erlichman • Mr. and Mrs. Meester W. McConnell • E. Bosch • S. Flippo • N.D. Marek • M. Covington • M. Lowe • E. Vichules GOOGLE • Deborah Adams • Elizabeth Olson • Kathleen Davidson • Jared Moon • Thom Howard • Dan Vold • Beth Perrenerswski • 8 in 1 Pet Products • Greenberg Foundation • Ken Podgorsek • Gordon & Barbara Vold • Cecelia Rose Foundation • M. Zechlin • N.D. Marek M. Covington • M. Lowe • W. Bosch • Aldo’s Ristorante • M. Reuter • Mr. and Mrs. Grutchfield • S. Flippo • W. Garner • Willow Street Pizza • W. McConnell • R. O’Neill • Neeps, Inc. • J. Gunter • G. Thompson • G. Valerio • Candid Hecking • Michael Montoya • Peggy Hoyt • Barbara Greene • Bonnie Rouse • Carie A. Parker • Cheryl Oldroyd • Cheryl Romano Deborah Adams • Deborah Cunningham • Deborah Huelsbergen • Debra Starr • Deena Adkins • Denise Law • Diane Sandoval-Weltzer • Douglas Czinder • Elaine White • Ivonne Karstedt • Jana Owens • Jaspal Singh • Jennifer Agnew-McManus • Jennifer Pfleckl • Jill Groff Jill Richey • Julia Farmer • Katharine Moore • Kathy Griffith • Kathleen Lang • Ken Becker Laurie Ryan-Day • Lisa Bradley • Lisa Frederick • Lisa Kerner • Lisa Moss • Liz Chapman • Liz Masoner • Manisha Subranian • Marieke Gartner • Mark Loughry • Marty Katz • Michelle San Pedro • Nicole Boals • Patricia Parten • Patty McIlvaine • Robyn Phelps • Ruth Olsen Ryan Ronning • Shannon Banchero • Shannon Berry • Dawn Stefanie Marchena • Shervelle Marquina • Sue Stretch • Suzanne Walenta • Tam Patane • Ted Marshall • Brenda Biggers Lorna Pusateri • Thrupti Redy • Linda Wright • Diane Neufeldt • Teresa Glidewell • Lynn Smith Deena Adkins • Susan Wolters • Susan Kramer • Brandy Shaw

A special “thank you” to Clay Myers from Best Friends Animal Society for continuing to allow us to use several of his wonderful photos throughout our newsletter.
Looking for a caregiver? Talk to local pet sitters, local animal rescue groups and your veterinarian.

attention could not replace the constant companionship to which she had been accustomed. Life looked pretty bleak until her caregiver decided to call the C.A.R.E. hotline. Today, Buffy lives in Mountain View, California with Ken and Nancy and her new friend Willie.

Unfortunately, the stories told here are not isolated situations. Thousands of animals suffer needlessly when their owners die or are no longer able to care for them. Oftentimes these pets are euthanized or left alone with little or no care.

We hope that by sharing these tales with you, we can increase awareness and ensure a future of “happy tails” for pets everywhere.

ETERNAL FRIENDS

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After awhile, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight. When he was standing before it, he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like Mother of Pearl and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate and, as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side.

When he was close enough, he called out, “Excuse me, where are we?” “This is Heaven, sir,” the man answered. “Wow! Would you happen to have some water?” the man asked. “Of course, sir. Come right in and I’ll have some ice water brought right up.” The man gestured and the gate began to open. Gesturing toward his dog, the traveler asked, “Can my friend come in, too?” “I’m sorry, sir, but we don’t accept pets.” The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog.

After another long walk and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road that led through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed; there was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

“Excuse me!” he called to the reader. “Do you have any water?” “Yeah, sure. There’s a pump over there.” The man pointed to a place that couldn’t be seen from outside the gate. “Come on in.” “How about my friend here?” The traveler gestured to the dog. “There should be a bowl by the pump.” They went through the gate and, sure enough, there was an old fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveler filled the bowl and took a long drink himself, then gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree waiting for them.

“What do you call this place?” the traveler asked. “This is Heaven,” he answered. “Well, that’s confusing,” the traveler said. “The man down the road said that was Heaven, too.” “Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That’s Hell.” “Doesn’t it make you mad for them to use your name like that?” “No. I can see how you might think so, but we’re just happy they screen out the folks who’ll leave their best friends behind.”

The Future

Buffy, Willie, and Sweet Pea’s stories have happy endings, thanks to the work of caring volunteers like Ken and Nancy. As a member of the Best Friends Network, Ken became acquainted with 2nd Chance 4 Pets founder, Amy Shever. Today they work together educating seniors, Rotarians, and other local civic groups on the importance of making provisions for our four-legged friends, just as we make for our human families. While we often consider our pets’ daily needs, we must also plan for their future to be certain that they will be provided for should something happen to us.

Your plan should include the following three components:

Caregivers—Identify people who can step in to take care of your pets temporarily, in the hours, days, or weeks after an emergency, or who will adopt your animals should you die or become incapacitated.

Instructions—How do you want your animals to live – with other caregivers or in a sanctuary? What kind of special care do your animals require? Do you want the animals to stay together?

Financial Plans—Set aside funds to ensure that your animals will receive continuous care temporarily or permanently.
Every pet deserves a good home, and unfortunately, yours may not be that home. Even a responsible pet owner and animal lover may find themselves in a situation in which they are no longer able to keep and care for a pet. If this is the case, there are steps you can take to ensure that your pet doesn’t become one of those lost wanderers on the side of the road.

First, make sure that giving up an animal is really the only solution. If the pet has a behavior problem, consult with your vet to determine if it may be a treatable medical condition. If there is no medical cause, investing in obedience training may eliminate the problem. If a family member’s health is the cause for concern, check with a physician to see if there are alternatives to giving up the pet. For instance, if the problem is allergies, there are steps you can take to reduce the symptoms caused by the pet. The HSUS website has helpful information addressing this issue at http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/allergies_to_pets/index.html.

Some circumstances are outside of your control. Regardless of the reason, if you decide that you must give up your pet, take advantage of the many options available to help you locate a new home for him or her. If the pet is a pure breed, many breed-specific rescue groups will house or foster an adoptable animal until it can be placed in a permanent home. There are also several non breed-specific pet rescue resources available, some of which operate in partnership with animal shelters and rescue groups. You can post flyers about the animal in areas where the flyer will be seen by people who are likely to provide a good home such as in your vet’s office. Be sure to explore all avenues and leverage the resources that exist before relinquishing your pet to a shelter.

Whether trying to find the home for a stray animal or finding a new home for a pet of your own, you will want to be sure that the animal’s health and happiness are the priority. Research rescue groups or other animal care organizations before you enlist their help, and never turn the animal over to someone you’re unsure of. The sidebar to this article on page 5 lists a number of online resources that can help you find a good home for just about any living creature, and a happy animal in a loving home makes us all feel good.
Providing loving care to your pet is a lifelong commitment. Who will honor this commitment if you no longer can?

There are several important considerations to keep in mind.

**ANIMAL SANCTUARIES**

Are They a Viable Lifetime Care Option for Your Companion Animals?

The numbers prove it; Americans love their pets. A 2004 study reported that 33.9 million households in the U.S. include dogs as part of their family, and 28.3 million have cats. Additional studies have shown that only 12% to 27% of pet owners include their pets in their wills. If you are (or should you choose to become) one of the many pet owners, you should also consider the very real question of what will happen to your pets if something should happen to you.

The word “trust” is defined as faith or belief. We all want to believe that our pets will be well cared for in the event of our death, but to truly trust that this will happen we must first educate ourselves by exploring the available options for planning for their lifetime care. If you do not have the good fortune of bestowing your trust to a relative or known caregiver, an animal sanctuary may be a viable option. However, it’s important to carefully consider if a sanctuary is the right option for your pets.

In addition to the obvious financial commitments, you will want to understand the history of any sanctuary you are considering, e.g. funding sources, licensing, number of years in operation. Other issues to consider include: What happens to the pets if the program is unable to continue? Are they adopted out, or do they remain at the facility permanently? If the former, what does the adoption process entail? Does the program have a policy on returning adopted pets?

Second, find out how the facility is managed. This should include information on the experience and training of the staff, “pet to person ratio” or average amount of human attention each pet receives daily, pet capacity, conditions of the facility and the space pets will occupy during their stay there (cage vs. pen).

Finally, it is important to become familiar with health-management issues as well. Find out what levels of veterinary care are provided, i.e. do they give regular examinations, and if so, by a licensed veterinarian or an intern? How are medical emergencies handled? What is the sanctuary’s position on euthanasia? What type of food do they provide and on what schedule? Can they accommodate special diets? Do they have an exercise program? Do they accept pets of varying age and medical needs? If it is important to you, it is also a good idea to ask if they will honor special burial requests.

If, after all of this, you find a sanctuary that meets your requirements, plan a visit to verify your impressions and ask for a list of references. Additionally, consider engaging an attorney to finalize any arrangements you make. It will take a little legwork, but it will be comforting to know that you can provide for your beloved pets if and when you are no longer around.

For a list of sanctuaries by state, please visit www.2ndchance4pets.org and go to the Resources tab.
POST "EMERGENCY ALERT CARDS" IN YOUR HOME TO NOTIFY OTHERS ABOUT HOW MANY PETS ARE IN YOUR HOME, LOCATION OF FOOD, LEASHES AND MEDICINE.

TRANSPORTING YOUR COMPANION ANIMALS SAFELY FROM POINT A TO POINT B

Planes, trains, automobiles, buses, Pony Express, oh my! How in the world can you transport your beloved companion animals safely from "Point A" to "Point B"? Now that buses and trains no longer accommodate pets, there are only two realistic options: transport by car or airplane. When coordinating your pet's travel, you can choose to hire a professional pet transportation company or go the do-it-yourself route.

Whether you are planning a vacation, preparing to relocate, or transporting rescued animals, ensuring a safe and happy move involves careful planning in advance. In this article, we will look at general considerations and travel alternatives involved in arranging pet transport. Additional information and resources are also listed.

General Considerations

Typical challenges encountered when traveling with your pet can be avoided with sound planning and common sense. Safely transporting your furry (or not so furry) companions can be daunting, especially for long moves or large numbers of animals. In general, the shorter the trip, the safer and happier your pet will be. Here are a few things to consider:

Purpose of travel and destination: When going on vacation or rescuing an animal, you may want to take him/her in the same mode of transportation you’re using for yourself. If you’re traveling a short distance, a do-it-yourself move by car might be just fine. However, if you’re moving to another state or country, you may want to consider using a professional animal transporter. The additional cost may be well worth your pet’s safety and your peace of mind.

Type of animals being transported: Dogs and cats are the most common animals moved, and most pet transporters have experience with them. Other animals, such as rabbits and reptiles and larger animals, such as horses and llamas, require special considerations.

Pet’s age, health, and time of year: Travel is stressful for most pets, especially for the very young, old, or medically challenged. Consult your veterinarian to ensure that your pet’s condition is suitable for the move. Also, consider the time of year. Extremely hot or cold weather will put additional stress on your pets. Some professional transporters apply restrictions on the time of year and where they transport animals.

Number of pets: Are you moving one pet or a menagerie? The costs and considerations vary greatly based on the number of pets you’re moving.

Import regulations and health requirements: Every country has specific regulations about importing pets; most require health certificates and shots in advance – but not too far in advance – of the trip. If you’re making the travel arrangements yourself, you must consider all restrictions involved. (Professional pet transporters should be well-acquainted with such matters.)

Crates and carriers: Familiarize yourself with the standards and requirements for these items. Crated animals should be able to stand up without hitting their head or ears. Include enough water and food for the trip. Always be sure pets are comfortable in their crate or carrier, well before the travel date.

Airlines: If you are shipping by air and plan to do the leg work yourself, find out which airlines will accept your pet and which routes they fly. Take note of the time of year, whether day flights are available, transit points, and aircraft size. All of these factors will affect your pet’s trip. Most airlines do not allow sedated pets to travel and sedation is rarely advised. Some airlines apply restrictions on when and where they transport animals. For example, Continental Airlines will not ship animals to their hub in Houston in the summer because of the heat.

Your budget: Carefully estimate the potential costs. An airline or professional shipper may be more costly than auto travel for shorter trips, but less expensive for longer trips. Be sure to consider all factors before deciding to move your companions for what may appear to be a bargain price.

Airline Travel

Airlines usually provide the quickest and safest way to transport your pets long-distance. Some airlines allow you to take pets into the cabin using regulation carriers. Most offer pressurized, temperature controlled baggage compartments for your pets. Others (e.g., Southwest Airlines) allow only service animals when accompanied by disabled persons or if they are being delivered to disabled persons. Check with the airlines to learn their requirements and limitations. If you have an exotic or delicate pet, be sure to talk with someone at the airline’s “Live Animal Desk” or ask for recommendations from local animal groups about the best airline for your type of pet.

Car Travel

Aside from the airlines, the only other method of pet transportation is by car. A health certificate usually is required for interstate travel or travel into a neighboring country, such as Canada. Border crossings require a certificate and although people are seldom stopped between states, you shouldn’t risk being without it.

Land travel typically requires significantly more time than flying, so consider the following:

In General: Be sure your animal is used to riding in a vehicle in his or her carrier or crate. Take several short rides around the block or to the local store to maximize your pet’s enjoyment of a future trip and to minimize stress. Carriers, crates, or special pet barriers and seat belts ensure your pet’s safety and your safety and prevent your pets from escaping or being jostled.

Dogs: Plan rest stops to walk your dog every few hours. Doing so will give you a break, and enable your pet to relieve itself and get a drink.

Hotels: Plan your trip in advance with hotels that accept pets. After a long day driving you don’t want to be asked to leave or find a pet kennel. To find lists of pet-friendly hotels on the Internet, point your browser to www.google.com and look for “pet friendly hotel.” A great source for dog owners is www.fidofriendly.com.

Identification: Keep identification tags and licenses on your pet, and microchip your pet ahead of time. Also, create a temporary tag with your destination address or a cell phone number on it.
**Nausea:** If your pet tends to become car sick, ask your veterinarian about using Dramamine or a similar product to control nausea.

**Supplies:** Be sure to bring adequate supplies of food, water, litter, toys, medicines, and other items your pet will need. Plan for delays along the way!

**Professional Pet Transportation Companies**

If you’ve decided to hire a pro to transport your beloved pets, look for a member of the Independent Pet and Animal Transportation Association International, Inc. (IPATA). Founded in 1979, IPATA is an association of pet transporters that “provide professional, competent and caring pet transportation relocation services throughout the USA and around the world.”

IPATA’s website offers a nifty search feature that can help you find an IPATA member for your pet and destination. To use the search, go to www.ipata.com and select “Find a Pet Shipper” on the left side of the page. Next, look for the blue area “Search on-line to find a pet shipper” and then select “Click Here.” You can then search by company name, country, province/state/territory, airport, and species. The resulting lists provide contact information, airports served, services provided and types of animals shipped. You can also print an alphabetical list of pet shippers directly from IPATA’s website.

Typical services offered by IPATA members include pick-up and delivery, flight reservations, flight kennel sales, help with health and/or veterinary certificates, domestic & international documentation. Some IPATA members’ websites offer quick quotes for shipping your pets. These quotes enable you to compare costs among pet transporters. You may want to consider the services offered when comparing costs—a low bid isn’t necessarily better when entrusting your pets to a transport company.

**Selecting the Right Company**

It’s important to do your homework when choosing a pet transporter. Check the shipper’s website for information about their services, qualifications and frequently asked questions. You may want to contact them by phone or in person and ask the following:

**Qualifications:** Does the shipper have the experience and knowledge to provide a safe and worry-free relocation? Is the shipper experienced in transporting your type of pet? Is the shipper certified to handle/transport animals? Will the shipper provide references from satisfied clients?

**Affiliations:** Is the shipper affiliated with agencies that promote safe animal travel such as IPATA (Independent Pet and Animal Transportation Association), USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) or ABKA (American Boarding Kennel Association)?

**Services:** What areas does the shipper serve? What are the drop-off/pickup options? What other services are provided (e.g., transport, boarding, grooming, vet services, medications/vaccinations, customs clearance, shipping containers, destination agent arrangement, LIVE ANIMAL stickers, water bowls)? Will the shipper review all the documents ahead of time and is this service included in the fee? Will the shipper make all the necessary arrangements with the airlines, the transfer and destination agents, and the quarantine station, if applicable? How much advanced planning is needed?

**Costs:** Does the shipper offer free estimates/consultations? What discounts are available (e.g., military, seniors, non-profits, breeders)? Does the estimate include everything? What payment options does the shipper offer?

**Rules, Regulations, Insurance, and Tracking:** Does the shipper comply with rules and regulations of the Animal Welfare Act? Does the shipper have insurance for pets while in their custody? Can the shipper track and trace your shipment from departure to destination? What forms and other documentation are required? Will the company oversee accurate and timely health documentation, import permits, and customs clearance paperwork?

**Pet Comfort:** Will pets be transported in a pressurized, temperature-controlled, smoke- and fume-free environment? Will pets have a rest point on very long trips? Will pets be on a non-stop flight? Will the shipper provide crates or advise you on proper crates? Will the agent set up the travel carrier to adhere to IATA ‘Live Animal Regulations?’

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

**Shippers**

Independent Pet and Animal Transportation Association International, Inc. (IPATA) – A professional association of pet transporters. Website: www.ipata.com

Pet Guardian, LLC – Information on transporting your pet throughout the U.S. Website: www.petguardian.com (go to “PetGuardian Community”).

**Regulation Organizations**

International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Live Animals and Perishables (LAPB) Regulations specify the minimum requirements for the international transport of animals and wildlife, and indicate what precautions airlines, shippers, cargo agents and animal care professionals should take on the ground and in the air. Website url: www.iata.org/workgroups/lap.htm. (Regulations available for purchase at www.iata.org/ps/publications/9105.htm.)

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Website: www.usda.gov (go to “Browse By Subject,” then select “Travel and Recreation,” and “Pet Travel”)”

**Quarantine Requirements** – Website: www.actionpetexpress.com/749924.html

**General Information**

Google.com—Type in “animal transport.”

Tax Tip—Your pet relocation expenses may be tax deductible. Check IRS publication #521 website: www.irs.gov/publications/p521/index.html

**Airline Websites**

Visit the airline’s website or call the airline’s “Live Animal Desk” for specific instructions. For websites marked with an asterisk (*) search for “pets” to find pet transport information:

Alaska: www.alaskaair.com/www2/help/faqs/Pets.asp

*America West: www.americawest.com

*American Airlines: www.aa.com

*Continental: www.continental.com

*Delta: www.delta.com

Northwest: www.nwa.com/travel/animals/index.html

Southwest: www.southwest.com. Southwest does not accept live animals, except service animals accompanying a person with a disability or being delivered to a person with a disability.

*United: www.united.com

*USAIR: www.usairwayscargo.com

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*USAIR: www.usairwayscargo.com
If anything happened to you, what would happen to me?

Thousands of companion animals are relinquished to shelters and euthanized each year when their humans die or become too ill to care for them.

Have you made arrangements to ensure the lifetime care for your pets?

Write to 2nd Chance 4 Pets to receive a complete guide to planning for the lifetime care of your pets, emergency identification cards and our quarterly newsletter. A $25 donation will help cover the cost for materials and postage.

2nd Chance 4 Pets
1484 Pollard Rd, No 444
Los Gatos, CA. 95032

100% of the proceeds go directly to public outreach programs to help animals.

2nd Chance 4 Pets is an ALL VOLUNTEER, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our tax ID number 13-4280812.

For more information, please visit www.2ndchance4pets.org.

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HOME SWEET HOME: SENIORS, PETS AND LANDLORDS LIVING TOGETHER IN HARMONY

In crowded cities like New York, it is becoming increasingly difficult for seniors (and everyone else) to find pet-friendly apartments and landlords. It’s a frustrating experience to search for a clean, pet-friendly apartment building that doesn’t cost an arm and a leg. The National Housing Provisions for Disadvantaged Persons make it illegal for a landlord, owner or manager of federally funded (partially or wholly) assisted rental housing for the elderly or handicapped, to prohibit or prevent any tenant in such housing from owning common household pets; however, there are no such rules governing landlords of regular apartment buildings and houses. Housing laws vary from state to state. Judging by case studies in New York, the landlords seem to be winning the war and forcing more and more tenants to either give up their pets or move out of their buildings. Often, the decision is not the landlord’s alone. Some insurance companies refuse to insure buildings with certain breeds of dogs and other pets.

Such restrictions affect senior citizens in more ways than we realize. For many seniors their companion animal is their only friend and, sadly often their only companion. Their entire daily routine and purpose for living revolves around the companion animal. Innumerable studies (published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society among others) over the last 20 years have shown that seniors who live independently and have pets possess better physical and mental health than those without pets.

In an in-depth 1999 study by Joanne Roth at the University of La Verne in Southern California, “Pet Therapy Uses With Geriatric Adults,” 100 patients (34 male and 66 female) were examined for physical and mental well being over a period of three months. The patients were screened for hypertension, heart problems, Alzheimer’s and HIV and those with pets were found overall to be in better health than those without pets. The study reported that pets provided a “home-like atmosphere” and had “an uplifting effect on patients” who “experienced a reduction of stress and anxiety associated with hospitalization” and “were less likely to suffer from loneliness, depression, fatigue and inactivity.”

The sheer number of people affected by no-pet restrictions is staggering. Statistics from the Census Bureau and studies conducted by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) show that a large number of seniors who are not institutionalized live alone. Research conducted by 2nd Chance for Pets’ volunteers found that in 2003 19 percent of men and 40 percent of women 65 or older lived alone. It’s becoming increasingly apparent that even for the very landlords who are fighting to implement “no pet” clauses in their building leases, opening their apartments to pet owners makes better business sense, especially in single family rentals. According to HSUS, approximately 49.4 percent of U.S. renters have pets. If 50 percent of all tenants are looking for pet-friendly housing, renting to pet owners makes landlords twice as likely to find tenants. Additionally, these tenants appreciate the landlord’s kindness, are less likely to seek other housing options and tend to remain as a loyal tenant longer.
Looking for a caregiver? Talk to local pet sitters, local animal rescue groups and your veterinarian.

If you are unable to locate any pet-friendly residences in close proximity to where you live, there are two ways to try to keep your pets, even if your landlord doesn’t allow it. In some states, including New York, local laws (Administrative Code of the City of New York Section 27-2009.1, and Laws of Westchester County Section 694) state that if you have a pet in a multi-family dwelling (including most co-ops and condominiums) for more than 90 days, “open and notorious,” (i.e., the super or doorman of the building or a neighbor has seen the pet) then after the 3-month-period, if the landlord hasn’t initiated actions to enforce the “no-pet provision,” he waives the legal right for the duration of your tenancy to ask you to give up the pet. Any neighbors willing to testify as to how long you have had the pet and whether any of the landlord’s employees saw the animal can provide conclusive evidence in court. Also, pictures taken of the pet in public areas of the building (date these pictures carefully) along with medical records, bills, etc., provide a paper trail. The exception to the 90-day rule: if the tenant lies about the pet in any way.

Certain federal and state laws (anti-discriminatory statutes) also allow tenants to keep a pet in spite of “no pet” policies if they are physically disabled or emotionally distressed. These statutes (The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act) require that “reasonable accommodation” be granted for a physically or mentally disabled person. Failure to grant “reasonable accommodation” could be considered “an act of discrimination against a disabled person” in violation of the law (42 U.S.C. Section 3604(f)(3)(B)), and the landlord or co-op board could be held liable for compensatory and punitive damages in a state or federal court. This requires burden of proof by the tenant that he/she has a physical or mental impairment which interferes with a major life activity, and that he/she has a medical need to keep the companion animal (requires the testimony of a medical professional). “Disability” in this case includes a range of ailments like blindness, paralysis, deafness, HIV, mental illness, severe depression and arthritis. Aggrieved persons can file a complaint in federal and state courts or with the City Civil Rights Commission or State Attorney General Civil Rights Office. Cases decided in favor of tenants that are worth reviewing include Bronk v. Ineichen, 54 F.3d 425, 429 (7th Cir. 1995), Fulciniti v. Village of Shadyside Condominium Association, No. 96-1825 (W.D. Pa. Nov. 20, 1998) and Green v. Housing Authority of Clackamas County, 994 F.Supp. 1253, 1256.

Often, the few landlords that do not have a no-pet policy charge exorbitant rents. In such cases it’s more advisable that the tenant offer to pay a one-time returnable deposit at the outset to safeguard the landlord financially. If the tenant’s pet causes significant damage to property, the tenant should be held financially liable and the deposit money used for that purpose.

Regardless of your age, if you are among the lucky ones who find pet-friendly accommodations, don’t ruin it for others by acting irresponsibly. Maintain all positive references from previous landlords that specifically mention your pet. Save proof/documentation of licensing, neutering, necessary vaccinations, obedience school or anything else that supports your case. Take every care and precaution so that your pets do not cause any inconvenience or threat to neighbors or damage to public areas.

Thank you to Thrupti Reddy, Senior Editor, Trust & Estates magazine, for providing the content and research for this article.

RESOURCES FOR PET OWNERS:

- The Humane Society of the United States has a wide range of resources on their website including the booklet, “13 steps to finding rental housing that accepts pets.” This information and other weblinks are available at www.rentwithpets.com
- National Apartment Locators (source: www.hsus.com)
  - www.apartmentguide.com
  - www.apartments.com
  - www.dogfriendly.com
  - www.forrent.com
  - www.homewithpets.com
  - www.101apartments.com
  - www.onlineapartmentguide.com
  - www.peoplewithpets.com
  - www.petapartments.net
  - www.pentrent.net
  - www.petswelcome.com
  - www.rent.net
  - www.rentnet.com
  - www.simplerent.com
SPAYING AND NEUTERING OUR PETS: HELPING THE PET OVERPOPULATION ISSUE IS IT GOOD FOR OUR PETS’ HEALTH?

Statistics collected from a variety of sources show that approximately six to eight million animals enter U.S. shelters annually and only half of them are adopted. The other three to four million die simply because there are more pets than available homes.

Consider this: each year, a fertile female cat can produce an average of three litters of four to six kittens. It doesn’t take long for those numbers to really add up. In just seven years one cat and her kittens can, theoretically, produce 420,000 cats! While dogs don’t reproduce as often (twice yearly), the average litter is larger. In six years, 67,000 dogs can be produced from one female dog and her puppies!

Given these alarming numbers, why don’t more people take steps to prevent pet pregnancy? Some concerns are that spaying or neutering could have long-term adverse effects on their pet’s health, might negatively change their pet’s behavior, or are just too expensive. Most of these concerns are based on few, if any, facts.

To address these concerns, the following are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about pet sterilization:

How are animals sterilized? The most common and effective approach to birth control is surgical. Spaying (ovario-hysterectomy) of a female involves removing the reproductive organs, including the uterus, ovaries, and fallopian tubes. This procedure, which is done under anesthesia through a small incision in the abdomen, causes no change in the animal’s appearance. Neutering (orchectomy) is the surgical removal of a male’s testes. This procedure is also done under anesthesia, and only the testes are removed – the scrotum or “sac” is left. Therefore, depending on the animal’s age at the time of surgery, there is little if any change in its outward appearance.

What are the health benefits? Spaying vastly decreases the incidence of breast cancer and if it is done before the animal’s first “heat,” virtually eliminates the risk. Spaying also removes the risk of developing a serious, potentially fatal uterine infection called pyometra and prevents tumors of the uterus and ovaries. In spayed females there is no risk of “false pregnancy,” a condition often experienced by older pets.

Since neutering removes the testes, the formation of testicular tumors is prevented. Because of their effects on blood cells and hormone production, even non-malignant testicular tumors can threaten an animal’s life. Prostate enlargement, which is caused by the male hormone testosterone (produced by the testes), affects 60% of un-neutered older dogs. This predisposes the dog to prostate and urinary tract infections that make urination painful and difficult. Untreated prostate glands can abscess, leading to systemic infection, shock, and death. Often, successful treatment of this condition requires surgery which can result in incontinence. Excess testosterone can also lead to tumors of the skin glands around the tail and anus, and these often require surgical removal because they bleed or become infected. Finally, un-neutered animals have higher incidences of traumatic injury from fighting, roaming, and exposure to transmissible diseases.
Will my pet’s personality change? Sterilization does not adversely impact animals’ personalities. Generally, if any changes occur they are positive ones, and pets continue to be protective, loyal, and loving companions to their guardians. Since females no longer “go into heat,” there is no further need to confine them indoors nor will they have to fend off unwanted males. They won’t experience the undesirable mood swings and behaviors associated with the hormonal cycle or spotting. “Riding” behaviors are eliminated in most animals of both sexes. The territorial urine marking that is common among male cats usually stops, and the urine odor of male dogs is reduced. In both cats and dogs, aggression towards other animals, and even towards people, is reduced. Intermale fighting for females and territories is prevented. Dog “howling” and cat “wailing” are significantly diminished. Traumatic injuries and exposure to contagious diseases are decreased since spayed and neutered animals are less inclined to roam.

Dogs and cats can be spayed or neutered at an early age (6-14 weeks). This is encouraged not only to prevent the development of unwanted behaviors and to maximize health benefits, but also because it is generally less expensive than spaying and neutering mature animals.

Considering the adverse effects on health and behavior that unsterilized animals will likely experience, as well as the associated expenses, it becomes apparent that the costs of spaying and neutering can be considered relatively minor investments. While the charge can vary depending upon the animal’s age, reproductive status (spaying while “in heat” is considerably more expensive), and location, many humane societies and animal control agencies offer low-cost spay/neuter clinics. Regardless of cost, spaying and neutering are one-time procedures.

Due in large part to human resistance to pet sterilization, millions of unwanted animals are euthanized every year, and the public bears an annual burden of approximately 2 billion dollars to deal with pet overpopulation. Closer to our hearts is the welfare of our animal companions. You can contribute to their health and well being, and to our society, by spaying or neutering your pets.

For more information:
www.hsus.org/pets/issues_affecting_our_pets/overpopulation_and_guardianship_statistics/.
CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Would you like to take part in our efforts to prevent pets from ending up in shelters when their owners pass away? Checks, cash, credit cards, and gift certificates aren’t the only ways to support our work and make a difference in the lives of our animal companions. Here’s a look at a few alternative donation options.

Real Estate

You may own property that is going unused, or maybe you’ve recently inherited real estate and don’t know what to do with it. Donating property is a great way to support 2nd Chance 4 Pets. The Real Estate Trust at the Community Foundation Silicon Valley (CFSV) located in San Jose, California makes donating real estate easy. CFSV accepts a variety of real estate donations and their staff will handle all the details of the transaction. With a gift to the Real Estate Trust at CFSV, you will receive the highest possible tax deduction.

Here are a few options for donating a gift of real estate:

1. Have the proceeds of the property’s sale placed into a fund for 2nd Chance 4 Pets.
2. Give an outright gift of land or a building for the organization’s use.
3. Pledge your real estate donation to 2nd Chance 4 Pets through a will or living trust.

The staff at CFSV will help you determine the most appropriate way to handle your donation. For more information, please visit www.giverealestate.org or contact Jennifer Rowe, Planned Giving Officer at 408-278-2266 or email jrowe@cfsv.org.

Personal Property

Charitable trusts can be established through your estate planner using alternative funding sources. Securities, artwork, jewelry, and automobiles are all excellent examples of items that can have philanthropic value.

Airline Frequent Flyer Miles and Award Tickets

You can transfer your frequent flyer miles to a staff member of 2nd Chance 4 Pets, or donate an award ticket you have already earned. Travel is expensive, and your gift of airline miles will help our volunteers participate at animal welfare conferences and speak at upcoming veterinary symposiums. Check with your airline for frequent flyer donation tips and guidance, and to identify any applicable fees.

Computer/Office Supplies and Equipment/ Miscellaneous Items

Office supplies, laptops, printer ink cartridges are all gifts 2nd Chance 4 Pets can use. Advertising space, photocopies, calling cards and postage are great examples of gifts that can help further our cause.

Volunteer Your Skills

Your time is priceless and always appreciated. There are countless ways to volunteer. You can help with an event, administrative work, create flyers or offer your expertise in a particular professional area. Contact 2nd Chance 4 Pets at info@2ndchance4pets.org or call 408-871-1133 to find out about our current volunteer opportunities.

No donation is too big or too small.