

## What if I want to make formal arrangements for my pet's future?

To formally secure the future care of your pet, we recommend you consult with your attorney to make sure your wishes are legally ratified.



Some examples include a conditional gift of your pet with cash to an individual who has agreed to care for your pet. Others include a will or a durable power of attorney which can establish pet care provisions upon your death.



The State of Hawaii allows for pet trusts to be set up directly with an individual or an organization like the Kauai Humane Society. The more protective choice is to establish a trust, whereby another party is appointed to watch over the pet care-

taker under a trust agreement. Under Hawaii law, you can designate a trustee, including the Kauai Humane Society, to manage a fund for the care of your pet.

With any legal agreement, one must specify what happens if the pet predeceases the guardian or caretaker or vice versa and how any remaining funds are to be used.

We suggest the following website for a wealth of information to help plan for your friend's future:

[www.estateplanningforpets.org](http://www.estateplanningforpets.org)



## How can I leave a legacy to help care for all of Kauai's animals?



Kauai Humane Society was established in 1952 to protect Kauai's animals. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and gifts to the Society are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Our tax ID number is 99-0089250.

**Bequest** - When planning your estate, you may wish to leave a gift to the Society to ensure that your love of animals will be continued by providing for those in most need.

**Named Beneficiary** - Retirement assets, property, and insurance policies are all examples of beneficial gifts to help care for Kauai's animals.

***On behalf of the animals,  
thank you for your continued support.***

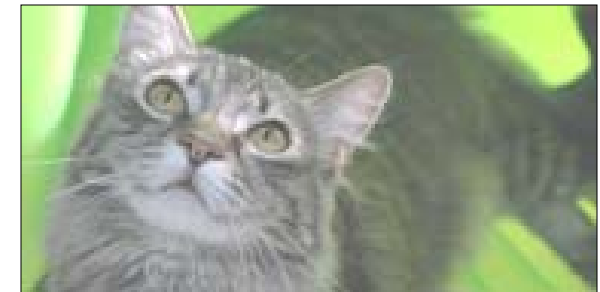
Please call our Executive Director, Dr. Becky Rhoades, if you would like to discuss the future care of your pet or leaving a legacy to care for Kauai's homeless animals.



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## Preparing for Your Friend's Future



***"Animals are such agreeable friends.  
They ask no questions.  
They pass no criticisms."  
George Eliot***

Because they've been such good friends, we want to make sure they are cared for when we are gone. We never know when that time will come – an accident, an illness, something totally unforeseen.

*Estate planning for your pets is like planning for your children, and just as important.*

## **Why is estate planning for my pet necessary?**



Year after year countless pets are left to a fate that their deceased owners would have never imagined, much less desired.

It is important to clearly state your wishes for your pet with your family members so they know what to do in the event of a tragedy such as your death.

You may not need to take affirmative action such as a written trust or will if you know your heirs are more than willing to care for your pet.

However, if you are unsure or desire to have your wishes clearly documented, consider the following to ensure your pet's future.

### ***Your current heirs are not the best people to provide for the care of your pet.***

This is perhaps the most significant of the factors necessitating that you plan for your pet's future.



### ***Your pet has a long life expectancy.***

The longer the life expectancy of your pet, the greater the chance your pet will outlive you and need to be cared for.

### ***You have more than one pet.***

Family members may not be able to care for all of your pets so you need to plan ahead if you want them to stay together.



### ***You live alone.***

If you live alone, you need to consider who would help retrieve your pet if something were to happen to you.

### ***You are advanced in age.***

There is no nice way to say that the shorter your life expectancy is, the greater the chance your pet will outlive you and need provisions for his or her continued care.

### ***Your pet has special needs.***

If your pet has special needs, those needs should be articulated and, if necessary, financially provided for.

### **What does estate planning for my pet involve?**



This first step and sometimes, most difficult is selecting a suitable caretaker - a person or an organization that is willing and able to provide the appropriate standard of care for your pet when you no longer can.

You may want to meet with your pet caretaker to introduce them to your pet and review your desires for how they are to be cared for. Together, you can agree upon your wishes which will help alleviate any fears of the future.

Make your intentions clear by writing them down. Even if you choose not to incur the expense of a legal arrangement, a written document is very helpful. At the very least, the document will provide valuable information and impose a moral obligation upon your caretaker.



We have two forms available at the Society to help you with writing your plans. A Pet Profile form which describes your pet in detail and a Pet Care Notification form which advises on how to provide care for your pet.

Depending on the circumstances, you may want to set aside funds necessary to cover expenses for your pet. In estimating the total amount needed, you should consider what you spend now on food, medications, veterinary care, etc., and possibly include compensation for the caretaker's time.

In making a budget, you should also consider the pet's life expectancy and your wishes for the final act of caring such as cremation services.

