



CARE OF YOUR PETS

To ensure the proper attention is giving to your pets during your incapacitation or after your death, there are a few simple steps you should take now to reduce or eliminate any issues.

1. Make an Emergency Animal Card and carry it in your wallet so that emergency personnel that are assisting you know that you have an animal at home that will also need care if you are unable to immediately return home.
2. Prepare an Animal Information Sheet that provides basic information about your pets or animals, such as names, breed, nutritional requirements, preferences or routines, medication, etc.
3. Post a sign near your front and back doors indicating that a pet is present in the residence if circumstances should warrant entry by emergency personnel.
4. Carefully plan for your pet's care after your total incapacitation or death.
 - a. Do you want the pets to reside with family members? If so, are they aware of your wishes?
 - b. Do you want the pets to be adopted? If so, provide the process for a caretaker to find a suitable adoption home. You need to ensure that you specify adoption and that euthanizing or turning the animal over to a kill shelter is not an acceptable alternative.
 - c. Is it important to maintain your pets together during and/or after the adoption phase?
 - d. Do you want surviving family members to have visitation rights to your pets?
 - e. What happens if the individual or family that adopts your pets can no longer care for them? Should they contact the original caretaker so that the caretaker can explore other adoption options? Or is it the responsibility of the individual or family that adopted your pet to locate a new home? You should realize that, if this is your choice, your wishes may not be carried out in the manner that you requested or envisioned.

With a little additional thought and consideration, you can ensure that your beloved pets will enjoy their lives if you are no longer able to care for them!