



If something happened to me, what would happen to my pet?

People assume they will outlive their pets but that is not always the case. Unfortunately, a lack of planning results in 100,000 to 500,000 pets surrendered to U.S. shelters each year after an owner becomes incapacitated or passes away.

If a health issue, a change in housing, or other unexpected situations were to happen, advance planning will help your pets in time of need. There are formal (legal) and less formal ways to ensure your beloved pet will safely transition to a new temporary or permanent situation.

1. Identify Caregivers

Talk with friends, family members, and neighbors about becoming your pet's designated caregiver. Identify at least 2 people (a primary caregiver and at least one back-up) who will care for your pet on a temporary and permanent basis. If this isn't possible, identify someone you trust to make arrangements for your pets. Make sure to get commitments in writing from all parties.

2. Document Important Information

Prepare information detailing the daily care needs and medical history of your pet. Make sure there are copies with your 'important paperwork' and even in obvious places like on your refrigerator! **See the back of this page for suggested information to document.**

3. Formalize Your Wishes

- Document your wishes and identified caregivers in your will
- Set aside funds to cover your pets future expenses
- Make sure copies of your wishes are documented with your own advance planning health documents

Here are more resources:

- The Human Society: Providing for Your Pet's Future Without You, www.humanesociety.org
- 2nd Chance 4 Pets: Help for Pet Owners, www.2ndchance4pets.org
- AARP: In Pets We Trust, www.aarp.org
- Advance Planning for People! Quality of Life Initiative: www.capecodhealth.org



CAPE COD PET
COLLECTIVE

Important Information to Document for Pet Planning

Pet Name: _____

Year Born/Age: _____

Species/Breed: _____ Gender: _____

Description (e.g. color) _____ (Include photo if possible)

Veterinarian contact info and medical records:

Medical History and Current Conditions:

Medication(s) and Dosage: *(Heartworm meds, flea/tick prevention)*

Behavior History:

Feeding Habits: *(Portion sizes, dietary restrictions, allergies, special treats)*

Daily Activity Plan:

Favorite Activities: *(Swimming, long hikes, agility, watching reruns of Judge Judy)*

Fears and Special Quirks: *(Scared of thunder, litterbox habits, or has a longstanding feud with squirrels)*