

How Terrica Jennings & Associates Can Help You Establish a Pet Trust in Washington, D.C. and Maryland

At Terrica Jennings & Associates, we specialize in creating comprehensive pet trusts (trusts for the care of animals) to ensure your beloved pets are well cared for in the event of your illness or passing. Here's how we can assist you in Washington, D.C., and Maryland:

TRUSTEE AND CAREGIVER DESIGNATIONS

Trustee: We will help you designate a trustee responsible for managing the trust funds.

Successor Trustee: We will assist in naming a successor trustee to ensure continuity.

Caregiver: We'll help you select a caregiver for the day-to-day care of your pet.

Successor Caregiver: We will guide you in choosing a backup caregiver.

IDENTIFICATION OF PETS

Specific Identification: We can use photos, microchips, DNA samples, or other methods to specifically identify your pets.

Class Identification: Alternatively, we can describe your pets as a class, such as "the pet(s) owned by you at the time of your illness/death."

STANDARD OF LIVING AND CARE

We will work with you to provide a detailed description of your pet's standard of living and care requirements, including dietary needs, medical care, grooming, and exercise routines.

REGULAR INSPECTIONS

If desired, we can include provisions for the trustee to conduct regular inspections of your pet(s) to ensure they are receiving proper care.

FUNDING THE TRUST

Care Expenses: We will determine the amount of funds necessary to cover the expenses for your pet's care, ensuring it is reasonable and reflective of your pet's standard of living. We will specify how these funds should be distributed to the caregiver.

Administrative Expenses: We will determine the amount of funds needed to cover the expenses of administering the pet trust.

REMAINDER BENEFICIARY

We will help you designate a remainder beneficiary to receive any funds remaining in the pet trust after your pet has passed away and all expenses have been covered.

FINAL DISPOSITION OF YOUR PET

We will ensure clear instructions for the final disposition of your pet, such as burial or cremation, are included in the trust.

Terrica Jennings & Associates is committed to providing personalized and comprehensive legal services to secure the future of your pets. Contact us to learn more about how we can help you establish a pet trust in Washington, D.C., and Maryland.

WHY CHOOSE TERRICA JENNINGS & ASSOCIATES?

Prudent pet owners recognize the importance of providing for their pets in the event of disability or death, and we are here to help. We are more than just attorneys; we are advocates for your entire family, including your pets. Our commitment is to provide you with peace of mind, knowing that your beloved companions will be cared for according to your wishes.

Contact us

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Estate Planning & Immigration
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Paws and Peace of Mind: Estate Planning for Pets

Wills, Trusts, Advance Directives, etc.





About Terrica Jennings, Esq.

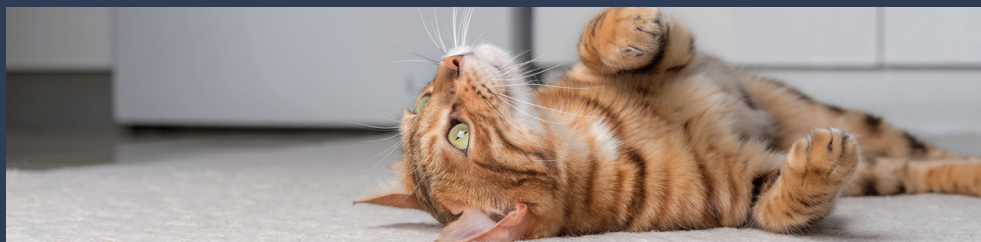
Terrica Jennings & Associates is a Washington, DC-based law firm offering compassionate and comprehensive estate planning services. Our managing attorney, a lifelong pet owner, ensures your pets are cared for according to your wishes. Our personal approach and deep understanding of clients' needs provide peace of mind for pet owners.

Our Commitment to You

We believe in protecting all members of your family, including your pets. Our tailored legal solutions ensure your pets are well cared for in the event of your incapacity or passing.

Our Services

- Wills
- Trusts
- Living Wills/Advance Healthcare Directives
- Power of Attorney
- Asset Protection
- Business Succession Planning
- Probate and Estate Administration
- Special Needs Planning



WHAT IS A TRUST FOR CARE OF ANIMAL (PET TRUST)?

A trust for care of animal (pet trust) ensures your pet's care if you pass away or become incapacitated. Key features include:

- Trustee**
Manages the trust's assets for the pet's benefit.
- Instructions**
Detail care specifics like diet, medical care, and routines.
- Caretaker**
Provides daily care as per your instructions.
- Funding**
Allocate funds to cover your pet's lifetime expenses.

BENEFITS OF A TRUST FOR CARE OF ANIMAL (PET TRUST)

A trust for care of animal (pet trust) ensures your pet's care if you pass away or become incapacitated. Key features include:

- Detailed Instructions**
Direct the management and disbursement of funds throughout your pet's life.
- Avoid Probate**
Trust funds are not subject to probate, avoiding delays and keeping terms private.
- Flexible Management**
Funds transferred during your lifetime can stay in trust after your death.
- Owner-Pet Unity**
Helps keep the pet with the owner during in-home care or moves to assisted living or nursing homes.
- Lifetime Trust**
The trustee has a fiduciary duty to carry out the trust's terms.
- Encourage Facility Compliance**
Leaving funds for facilities that allow pets can ensure compliance with the owner's wishes.
- Legal Obligation**
The trustee has a fiduciary duty to carry out the trust's terms.

You appoint a trustee to manage funds and a caretaker to look after your pet. The trustee ensures your pet's expenses are covered according to your instructions. Name a remainder beneficiary to receive any leftover trust property after your pet's death, often a charity to avoid conflicts of interest.

PET TRUSTS GENERALLY HAVE THESE FEATURES

- The trust ends at the death of the last animal covered.
- Trust property is used only for the pet's benefit unless deemed excessive by the court.
- The court may appoint an enforcer if none is named.

TRUSTS FOR CARE OF ANIMAL (PET TRUST) LAWS

MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

Authorization: A trust may be created to provide for the care of an animal alive during the settlor's lifetime.

Termination: The trust ends upon the death of the animal or the last surviving animal if it covers more than one.

Enforcement: The trust may be enforced by a person appointed in the trust or by the court if no one is appointed. A person having an interest in the welfare of an animal may request the court to appoint a person to enforce the trust or to remove a person appointed.

Use of Trust Property: The property is used solely for the pet's benefit. Except as otherwise provided in the terms of the trust, property not required for the intended use must be distributed to the settlor, if then living, otherwise to the settlor's successors in interest.

OTHER ESTATE PLANNING TOOLS FOR PET OWNERS

Wills: A "statutory pet trust" is initiated by mention in a will. It automatically triggers a pet trust according to state law but does not allow for detailed care instructions.

Powers of Attorney: Delegates financial authority to another person during the owner's lifetime. This includes directions for pet care and funding pet-related documents.

Health Care Proxies: Allows an agent to access medical records to determine the owner's ability to care for pets. It should include notice of all pet documents and pets needing care.

