

# Owners must plan for pet care during illness or after their death



*What would become of your dog, cat, bird or other companion if something happened to you?*

Sadly, an estimated half million dogs and cats are euthanized each year after their owners pass away with no provisions made for their pet.

This isn't pleasant to think about, but it's not complicated to make arrangements for your pet in the event you're no longer able to care for them.

The peace of mind you'll receive from setting everything up ahead of time will be well worth the effort. Otherwise they might end up in an animal shelter with NO hope.

During an unexpected illness, accident or death, our pets may be overlooked. Pets may be discovered days later in the person's home. Find **at least two** friends or relatives who agree to serve as temporary emergency caregivers in case something happens to you. Provide them with keys to your home, feeding and care instructions, the name of your veterinarian and the permanent care provisions you've made for your pet. Make sure your neighbors, friends and relatives know how many pets you have and the names and contact numbers of the people who have agreed to act as temporary caregivers.

Carry a wallet "alert card" that lists the names and phone numbers of your emergency pet caregivers.

Post removable "in case of emergency" notices on your doors or windows, specifying how many and what types of pets you have. These will alert emergency responders during a fire or home emergency. Place a removable notice on the inside of your front and back doors listing emergency contact names and phone numbers. Pets need daily care and will need immediate attention should you die or become incapacitated. The importance of making these informal arrangements for temporary care giving cannot be overemphasized.

The Humane Society of the United States has prepared a fact sheet "Providing for Your Pet's Future without You" available online at [www. \*humanesociety.org\*](http://www.humanesociety.org)

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