



IS YOUR PET IN YOUR WILL?

“I never felt that I needed to have a will,” a single person told me recently, “Because I don’t have any children, so I thought that I didn’t have any dependents. Then I realized, ‘My goodness, I DO have a dependent! Who would take care of my pet?’”

For many of us, particularly if we live otherwise alone, our dog or cat may be an important member of our family. A pet typically is dependent upon daily care and feeding. So it makes sense to give some thought to how we might provide for our pet in the case of our incapacity or death.

St. Francis Guild for Petcare

To assist people in including their pets in their estate planning, a group of pet-friendly Episcopalians who are knowledgeable about estate planning have come together to form a guild for pet care that is named after the saint on whose commemoration day many of our animals are blessed.

The Guild of St. Francis will be making available information to better inform Episcopalians regarding their options for petcare when they can no longer take care of their companion animals themselves. Some of these options are sponsored by local or regional animal care organizations. Other options include participation by members of parishes or attorneys to which the Guild may refer you.

Examples of Need

“When I die, I would like someone to move into my home and care for my cats for their lifetime and after that, the church can have my home,” one member confided to me. Another person who was puzzling through issues connected with the writing of her will, asked me, “If I should die suddenly, how would my dogs and birds be fed and cared for? Someone would have to have a key and come to my house very soon. I live near the church. Could someone there do it?”

Still another pet owner reflected that, while she knew a particular person who she wished to take her dog, she wondered how best to provide for a sum of money to provide for food and veterinary expenses.

In each of these situations, the Gift Planning Office has worked with the person to seek a good solution. Now the Guild of St. Francis will also be available to provide supportive counsel and referrals.

Your Inquiries are Welcome

If you would like more information about including your pet in your plans, or if you would like to participate in the Guild of St. Francis for Petcare, please contact the Gift Planning Office.

Our pets are counting on us not to forget them when we plan for the inevitable. Your gift planning office will be pleased to help you to think through your stewardship options, for your pet’s welfare and for your peace of mind.

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