



News Release

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2nd Chance 4 Pets Featured in Tufts University Catnip Newsletter

LOS GATOS, Calif. (October 19, 2015) – The October edition of Catnip Newsletter, published by the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, features 2nd Chance 4 Pets in an article that outlines options for pet owners to make arrangements for their pets should the pet owner become unable to care for them. The article highlights information and resources 2nd Chance 4 Pets provides to pet owners so they can appropriately arrange for the lifetime care for their pets.

The article begins with an introduction by Executive Editor Elizabeth Vecsi emphasizing the importance of preemptively making a plan for providing pet care in the event of death or disability. Vecsi admits to skirting this important issue herself, “like many others, assuming things will work out when the time comes.” She calls the readers to action, urging them to arrange for the care of their pets in the case of the unexpected now.

Ramona Marek’s article, “Estate Planning and Your Pets,” outlines how readers can respond to Vecsi’s call to action. Marek provides information about laws and processes that are in place to assist in setting up Pet Trusts as well as other options to use in the event of an owner’s death or disability. She states, “As pet status has evolved over the past 20 years from owned property to members of the family, laws are fortunately beginning to reflect the change in attitudes —it is now possible to legally provide for a pet’s future care with provisions established in a pet trust.”

Marek explains that a pet trust is “a legal arrangement that provides specified terms and care for one or more pets in the event of the owner’s death or disability.” Although a pet trust can be the most comprehensive and legally sound plan, other options discussed in the article include an informal agreement with friends and family or a will. However, these options do have

shortcomings. An informal agreement is not legally enforceable. Wills often take time to settle and can result in a gap before the pet is actually cared for. Wills also may not ensure pet care in the event of incapacitation of the assigned caregiver before death.

In the article, Amy Shever of 2nd Chance 4 Pets provides additional planning options such as animal care panels, sanctuaries, and perpetual care programs. These options can be relevant should there be no one to designate as a caregiver for a pet. As highlighted in the article, sanctuaries and perpetual care facilities are good options; however, they require a thorough evaluation of the program to make sure they will be suitable for the pet owner and their pets.

Marek's article lists five steps for estate planning for pets: choosing the best plan, selecting a caregiver, writing a plan, funding the plan, and making the plan known; "Estate planning for your pet ensures peace of mind that your beloved pet will be cared for if you no longer can provide that care."

About 2nd Chance 4 Pets

The mission of 2nd Chance 4 Pets is to reduce the number of pets unnecessarily surrendered to animal shelters each year due to the death or incapacity of the human companions who care for them. A 501(c)(3) non-profit, all-volunteer organization, 2nd Chance 4 Pets works nationwide to provide pet owners with comprehensive information and lifetime care solutions for their pets. For more information, visit www.2ndchance4pets.org.

About Catnip

Catnip™ is a monthly newsletter published by Tufts University that provides feline medical and behavioral information for cat owners. Board members who are affiliated with Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and its hospitals review all articles. For more information, visit <http://www.tuftscatnip.com>.

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