



THOUSANDS OF PETS ARE ORPHANED EACH YEAR DUE TO THE DEATH OR DISABILITY OF THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS. 2ND CHANCE 4 PETS FOCUSES ITS ENTIRE EFFORTS ON ADDRESSING THIS LONG UNRECOGNIZED ISSUE.

2nd Chance 4 Pets dedicates this newsletter to the individuals who donate their time helping us save pets and provide peace of mind to pet owners.

Together we prevent pets from being left homeless due to the death or disability of the pet owners who care for them. Thank you for recognizing this important effort.

#### CONTACT US!

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501(c)(3) number 13-4280812



### A PET OWNER WITHOUT A PLAN LEAVES A PET WITHOUT A HOME

Dr. Michaels (aka "Dr. Mike") had a special bond with one of his patients, Lucy the labrador, and with Lucy's owner, Jim. Dr. Mike and Jim both loved labs. They volunteered together for the local lab rescue group and often saw each other at the dog park. Jim was a responsible, dedicated owner. He even added Dr. Mike's clinic phone number to Lucy's I.D. tag in case of any emergency.

A few days before Thanksgiving, a call came into Dr. Mike's clinic, and it was a call Dr. Mike would never forget. Tragically, Jim had been killed in a car accident. Overwhelmed with shock and grief, Dr. Mike also had the heart-breaking realization that Lucy was suddenly orphaned. Without any warning, Lucy was left with no one to care for her—without a home.

Jim's sister called Dr. Mike the next day to let him know that she had Lucy. She explained that she could care for Lucy for only a short time. Unfortunately, her daughter was extremely allergic to dogs. Already struggling with the death of her brother, Jim's sister wanted to do the right thing for Lucy, and she needed Dr. Mike's guidance. Should she call animal control or try to find a local rescue group to help? Dr. Mike asked her to keep Lucy as long as she possibly could and encouraged her to call other family members to see if someone could adopt Lucy. In the meantime, he inquired at the dog park, and even brought Lucy with him to play, but no one he approached was in a position to take in another pet. Jim's sister came up empty-handed, too. Within a few weeks, the all-consuming demands of Dr. Mike's practice began to limit how much time he could devote to helping Lucy.



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The tragic statistics estimate that 250,000–500,000 animals enter shelters each year due to the death or disability of their humans. Not surprisingly, these “orphaned” pets surrendered to shelters typically do not respond well to their new surroundings: They refuse food, grow despondent, and are often labeled “unadoptable.” Thousands of orphaned pets are euthanized each year when shelters run out of space for animals.

Considering this tragedy, all pet owners should carefully consider what would happen to their pets should their pets outlive them. Pet owners should take the appropriate steps to ensure that their pets will always receive care. No pet owner wants to see their pet go from a stable, loving home into a crowded shelter where there is no guarantee that they would be adopted into a good home. The most effective way for pet owners to ensure continued care for their pets is to identify committed caregivers. These “backup” caregivers—usually relatives or friends—must be willing and able to provide consistent and lifelong love and care to surviving pets. Once caregivers are identified, owners should provide detailed written care instructions, describing the pet’s diet, habits, and interests. The pet owner should also set aside adequate funds to defray the costs of care. This type of planning ensures better continuity for the pets, while also reducing the stress of an already tragic situation.

If a backup caregiver is already identified, owners might also consider using an estate planner to set up a legal pet trust, which consists of specific care instructions and funds to pay for the pets’ care. Ultimately, this arrangement will make things far more manageable for the caregiver. If a committed caregiver cannot be identified, several sanctuaries and veterinary schools provide perpetual care programs. These programs take in pets and either find them good homes or keep them safe for the remainder of their lives. It’s important to keep in mind, however, that such programs will not duplicate the experience of a loving home, and many require substantial donations to provide for pets’ care.

Thankfully, in terms of Lucy’s story, she was one of the lucky ones. Lucy got a second chance thanks to the local lab rescue group with whom Jim volunteered. As soon as the rescue group’s founder learned of Jim’s death, she mobilized her network of contacts and found a new home for Lucy. Lucy will now receive the love and care that Jim consistently provided and would have always wanted for his best friend.

For the sake of your own pets, don’t rely on luck. Make sure you follow the steps outlined in this article to guarantee that your pets will be cared for should they outlive you.

You can join us in ensuring a second chance for orphaned animals by spreading our message to save pets in your own community! 2nd Chance 4 Pets offers free brochures to provide to pet owners with information about lifetime care planning. To request brochures to provide to your local veterinarian, your pet sitter, other pet owners, and animal rescue groups, please send an email and your address to [Info@2ndchance4pets.org](mailto:Info@2ndchance4pets.org).

For more information, please visit [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org). You can also write to us at 2nd Chance 4 Pets, 1484 Pollard Rd., No. 444, Los Gatos, CA, 95032.

2ndChance4Pets is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to reduce the number of pets euthanized or abandoned due to the death or disability of the pet owner. For more information, to donate or to volunteer please visit contact us and please visit our website [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org). Our tax ID no. is 13-4280812.



## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR PET OWNERS

Adopting pets from animal shelters and rescue groups: [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)

Locating local animal shelter and rescue groups: [www.pets911.com](http://www.pets911.com)

Finding a missing pet: [www.missingpetpartnership.org](http://www.missingpetpartnership.org)

Feral cats and cat education: [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)

Pet care tips: [www.bestfriends.org/theanimals](http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals)

Report animal cruelty: [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org)

Volunteer opportunities with animal organizations: [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)

Job opportunities with animal organizations: [www.opportunityknocks.org](http://www.opportunityknocks.org)

## THREE IMPORTANT STEPS: PLANNING FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOUR PETS MIGHT OUTLIVE YOU



### 1 Step

#### Identify Caregivers

Identify people who would be willing to care for your pets in the hours, days, or weeks after an emergency as well as those who would be willing to adopt your pets should you die or become incapacitated. If you can not find friends, relatives or neighbors to serve as potential caregivers, local pet sitters and members of animal rescue groups may be able to help.



### 2 Step

#### Prepare Written Instructions

Prepare written instructions outlining how your pets should be cared for. How do you want your pets to live—in another household or in a sanctuary? What kind of special care do your pets require? Do you want your pets to stay together?

To make sure your wishes are followed, you must document your instructions and let others know where these instructions are located.



### 3 Step

#### Set Up a Fund

You currently pay for food, supplies and medical care for your pets. These expenses will not stop if you are not here to pay for them. Consider setting aside funds to cover temporary or permanent care of your pets.

Professionals that can help you include estate planners, financial planners and life insurance company representatives.

## THANK YOU FOR RECOGNIZING THE WORK WE DO TO HELP ANIMALS!

Including **2nd Chance 4 Pets** in your will is one of the most commonly known ways in which to make a lasting gift to charity—and one of the simplest. After ensuring that your family is taken care of, you can name **2nd Chance 4 Pets** in your will so that our organization receives a gift from your estate.

#### How do I leave a gift to 2nd Chance 4 Pets?

You should first decide what type of legacy you wish to leave to 2nd Chance 4 Pets. Let your attorney know what you want to do. He or she will need to know that the following words are typically used in wills to describe 2nd Chance 4 Pets: "2nd Chance 4 Pets, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of California and having its principal mailing location at 1484 Pollard Rd, No 444, Los Gatos, CA 95032."

#### Can I leave my pets to the care of 2nd Chance 4 Pets?

Our organization cannot be responsible for the care of your pets. However, we can provide you and your attorney with information to help you determine the most appropriate means to ensure that your pets will be cared for should they outlive you.

Thank you for recognizing our important efforts. Together, we will help save pets' lives, bring peace of mind to pet owners, and reduce the burden on animal shelters and rescue groups.



## Emergency Contact Information for My Pets

In case of an emergency, it's critical that others know how to contact you or someone who can help with the care of your pets. Please fill out the form below and post the form in a location in your home where it can easily be seen.

### My Information:

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate phone numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Pets in our home \_\_\_\_\_

Location of leashes, food, medicine \_\_\_\_\_

### Veterinarian Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

After-hours emergency number \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Pet Caregivers Information:

Name of caregiver \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of alternate caregiver \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_



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