



News Release

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2nd Chance 4 Pets Featured in Mercola Healthy Pets Newsletter Article

LOS GATOS, Calif. (May 23, 2015) – The May edition of the Mercola Healthy Pets Newsletter features an article authored by Dr. Karen Becker which highlights the importance of making arrangements for the care of a pet in the event the owner is no longer able to care for them. Information included in the article was based on 2nd Chance 4 Pets available resources.

The article “Who Will Care for Your Pet After You're Gone?” shares details about various legal options a pet owner can select to ensure the continued care of their pet. Dr. Becker states “Peace of mind you’ll receive from setting up (plans) ahead of time will be well worth the effort.”

In the article, Dr. Becker explains that the first step to providing for your pet is incorporating details about the wishes for your pet’s care in your will and testament. The will should include the name of specific individuals who have confirmed that they will take over the care of the pet, as well as listing any assets that can be used for the expense of caring for your pet. It is important to keep in mind that wills are not processed immediately upon a person’s death and specific pet care instructions are not enforceable. Therefore, it may be relevant to have a legal document called a Pet Trust that provides specific information regarding the care of your pet.

Traditional pet trusts, as the article confirms, are legal in 50 states, enabling a pet owner to specify the following: the trustee, the new owner (caretaker), the expenses reimbursed to the caretaker, the type of care your pet is to receive, and a backup caretaker. Assigning ownership of your pet in a legal document like a will or trust ensures that your pet will go to the person that you intend and not to a beneficiary who may be unable to take on that responsibility.

The most important step in planning care for your pet is selecting the caretaker. Dr. Becker urges pet owners to give this subject careful thought and consider someone who has the time, energy,

interest, and resources for this important responsibility. She reminds pet owners “not everyone is a ‘pet-person’ – perhaps not even your best friend or your own child or grandchild.” When you do decide on a caretaker, discuss your plans thoroughly and document these in writing.

The preparation of pet care in the event one is unable to care for their pets should be more commonly practiced. An estimated 500,000 dogs and cats are euthanized each year after their owners pass away. These are pets for which no provisions were made in the event something happened to their human best friend. This is a problem with a clear solution that more people should take part in.

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. Please visit www.2ndchance4pets.org for more information.

About Dr. Karen Becker

Dr. Becker is a proactive and integrative wellness veterinarian. She speaks about natural health at public seminars and has appeared on the popular show, the Animal Planet. She has been named one of Chicago’s Top Ten Vets according to Chicago Magazine. She has experience in working with homeless, abused, and unwanted animals. She supports wellness through her Natural Pet Animal Hospital, Feathers Bird Clinic, and TheraPaw Rehabilitation and Pain Management Clinic in Illinois. For more information visit <http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/dr-karen-becker.aspx>

About Mercola Healthy Pets Newsletter & Dr. Mercola

Dr. Joseph Mercola is a *New York Times* best-selling author. He was voted the 2009 Ultimate Wellness Game Changer by the *Huffington Post* and has been featured in several national media outlets, including *Time* magazine, the *LA Times*, *CNN*, *Fox News*, *ABC News*, the *Today Show*, and CBS’ *Washington Unplugged*. Dr. Mercola is board-certified in Family Medicine and is trained in both traditional and natural medicine. For more information, go to <http://www.mercola.com/>

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