

The Wall Street Journal  
March 21, 2007

## Ask Personal Journal.

**Q.** *We have five pets and would like to leave a provision for them in our will, such that if they are still living, they would be taken care of in a humane fashion for the rest of their lives. How do we estimate the cost of care and word this bequest?*

—SHARON PLUMMER, HOUSTON



**A:** Comprehensive information on estate planning for **animals** can be **found** at [www.estateplanningforpets.org](http://www.estateplanningforpets.org). The free site, set up by Steven Baker, a trusts and estates lawyer in Scottsdale, Ariz., offers a wide

range of information, including a list of knowledgeable lawyers in the U.S. and a pet-care cost estimator. Mr. Baker says crucial questions to address are who will take care of the pets when you cannot; how much money should you leave for the pets' care; and what strings, if any, do you want to attach to those funds. Other sources for information on pet estate planning include [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org) and a free kit from the Humane Society of the U.S. that you can get by contacting [petsinwills@hsus.org](mailto:petsinwills@hsus.org) or 202-452-1100.

—Rachel Emma Silverman

*We answer readers' questions every Wednesday. Send them to [PersonalJournal@WSJ.com](mailto:PersonalJournal@WSJ.com)*