



## Why Caregiving Instructions are Important

# IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU,

### WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME?

#### IT HAPPENS...

Thousands of pets are orphaned each year due to the death or disability of their human caregivers.

#### THINKING AHEAD

Dog Speed Animal Rescue would like to help reduce this type of situation by providing a guideline to help you plan for the future for your pet

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Why Caregiving Instructions are Important..... 1
- Selecting Caregivers.....2
- Components of a Lifetime Care Plan.....3
- Care Instruction Forms..... 4
- Information Forms to Complete for Each Pet.....8
- Emergency ID Cards.....9
- Emergency Contact Cards... 10
- About Dog Speed Animal Rescue.....10



To ensure that your pets will continue to receive the same type of care you currently provide, recording these instructions will allow anyone who might care for your pets (temporarily or permanently) to understand best how to provide this care.

#### *What if you have more than one pet?*

Make copies of pages 7 & 8 and complete for each pet. File copies along with your Will if you have one. Ensure your family members know you have completed this information and where to find it.

#### *Are these forms available on-line?*

Yes, just go to our website [www.dogspeedanimalrescue.org](http://www.dogspeedanimalrescue.org) and look for the link “PET CARE INSTRUCTION FORM”.

Please note that we are a Not-for-profit Registered Canadian Charity animal rescue. As such, we do not provide legal advice and nothing in our literature should be construed as legal advice or the practice of law. The forms we provide are simply guidelines, not a substitution for legal forms.



## Who will be your pets' guardian when you're not there?

Providing loving care for your pet is a lifelong commitment. Who will be there to honour this commitment if you no longer can? Here are your potential options:

- Spouse/Family Member(s)
- Friend(s)
- Rehome to a Reputable Animal Rescue Organization
- Pet Sanctuary
- Surrender to an Animal Shelter
- We do not recommend your pets are advertised/sold/free to a good home - to learn why, go to our website at [www.dogspeedanimalrescue.org](http://www.dogspeedanimalrescue.org)

To make sure your wishes are known and followed as to what should happen to your pets should you become disabled or pass away, why not provide all the details in writing so that everyone involved knows what you want and has all the info they will need to make it happen according to your wishes?

## Selecting Caregivers

As part of the process of documenting instructions for the care of your pets, identifying the right individuals to provide care is the most important part of lifetime care planning for your pets.

You should first take into account whether you want all your pets to be cared for by one person, or if different pets should/could be cared for by different people. It might be best to keep pets together who have bonded.

Identify alternate caregivers in case your first choice becomes unable or unwilling to take over the care of your pets. It's essential that you discuss your expectations with all potential caregivers so they understand and are willing to accept the responsibility of care - including veterinary treatment and decisions about end of life care. We recommend that you carefully identify individuals you trust, who accept the responsibility of caring for your pets and will do what is in the pets' best interest.

Stay in touch with designated caregivers and alternates. Over time, people's circumstances and priorities change. You will want to make sure that the arrangements you have made are kept up to date and that your estate executor or family knows who to contact, and has up to date contact information.

Locating a new home for your pets can take several weeks or several months, so it is important to line up temporary care as part of your planning strategy.

## ENSURING LONG-TERM, PERMANENT CARE FOR YOUR PETS

The best way to make sure your wishes are fulfilled is by making formal arrangements that specifically cover the care of your pets. It's not enough that long ago a friend or relative verbally promised to take over the care of your pets or even that you've decided to leave money to a friend for that purpose. We strongly recommend that you consult with a lawyer to draw up a will, trust, or other legal documents, as well as allocate funds to provide for the care of your pets.



## COMPONENTS OF A LIFETIME CARE PLAN

Often we plan for our children and other family members but overlook planning for our pet's long-term care. Having a lifetime care plan for your pets will provide peace of mind by ensuring that the animals you love have the kind of life you want to give them - even if you're not around to provide the care.

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### Step 1

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#### IDENTIFY CAREGIVERS

Identify people who could step in to take short-term care of your pets in the hours, days or weeks after an emergency, or who would adopt your pets should you die or become incapacitated. If you cannot find friends, relatives or neighbours to care for your pets, your veterinarian, local pet sitters and animal rescues groups may be able to help you locate potential caregivers. Dog Speed Animal Rescue would be happy to discuss this with you, just contact us at [dogspeedanimalrescue@gmail.com](mailto:dogspeedanimalrescue@gmail.com).

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### Step 2

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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 that your wishes are followed, your instructions must be written down and someone must know they exist and where to find them.

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### Step 3

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SET UP A FUND specifically for the care of your pets. You currently pay for food, shelter, supplies and medical care for your pets. Those expenses won't stop, even if you aren't here to pay them. You may want to set aside funds for temporary or foster care, transportation to a new home and the ongoing care of your pets.



## **PET OWNER INFORMATION**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

## **CAREGIVER INFORMATION**

*Carefully select a minimum of two caregivers who agree to be responsible for your pets should anything happen to you. Caregivers are typically responsible for the day-to-day care of your pets. They should fully understand the obligation and requirements for this role. Your choice of caregivers should take into account the potential lifespan of your pets.*

### **PRIMARY CAREGIVER** \_\_\_\_\_

This caregiver has agreed to care for my pets should anything happen to me       YES       NO

This caregiver will provide     short-term care       long-term care       both

Address/City/Prov./Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **ALTERNATE CAREGIVER** \_\_\_\_\_

This caregiver has agreed to care for my pets should anything happen to me       YES       NO

This caregiver will provide     short-term care       long-term care       both

Address/City/Prov./Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## **PET SITTERS AND BOARDING FACILITIES**

Should your designated caregiver go on vacation or be temporarily unavailable to care for your pets, who should take care of them?

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Avg daily charge (costs) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Prov./Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

*Emergency contacts might include friends and family members who may not necessarily take care of your pets but would be able to assist in case of emergency, and would have knowledge of your Caregiver information noted herein.*

**CONTACT #1** \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Prov./Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT #2** \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Prov./Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## **VETERINARIAN INFORMATION**

*In addition to listing the contact details below, please provide your veterinarian with copies of these Care Instructions so they know whom they should contact in case of emergency, and whom they can provide veterinary records to.*

**PRIMARY VETERINARIAN** \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Prov./Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTERNATIVE VETERINARIAN** \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Prov./Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## **TRUSTEE INFORMATION**

*Trustees are responsible for administering the assets you have set aside in your fund for your pets. Trustees might provide annual payments to caregivers as outlined in your estate plan or trust to cover the expenses of caring of your pet. It is recommended by lawyers that Trustees and caregivers not be the same people.*

**TRUSTEE OR TRUSTEE SERVICE** \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Prov./Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to allocate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year for my Trustee or Trustee service to provide to pet caregiver.



**TRUST FUND INFORMATION**

*For the benefit of the Trustee, please indicate how you plan to provide funds for the care of your pets.*

Bank Account     Tied to Will     Life Insurance Policy     Other, explain \_\_\_\_\_

*We encourage you to work with a lawyer or financial planner to appropriately fund your trust so that the Trustee is able to access the funds.*

**REMAINING TRUST FUND INFORMATION**

*I would like any remaining pet trust funds distributed to (percentages - should total 100%):*

*Dog Speed Animal Rescue & Transport Society (tax receipt will be sent to the Estate) \_\_\_\_\_%*

*Other pet welfare organization (provide name) \_\_\_\_\_%*

*Other beneficiary (provide name) \_\_\_\_\_%*

**PET HEALTH INSURANCE**

Do you currently own a pet insurance policy?     YES     NO

Name of provider \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \$\_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_ (yr or month)

**IN CASE OF SERIOUS ILLNESS**

My veterinarian should make the decision about end of life care

My caregiver should make the decision about end of life care

My emergency contacts should consult the caregiver and veterinarian to make any decision regarding end of life care.

**IN CASE OF DEATH**

When your pet dies, how do you want the pet’s remains to be cared for?

Burial     Cremation ashes not returned     Cremation return ashes in urn (provide details)

Local Pet Cemetery     Caregiver Decides

I would like to allocate \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the cost of caring for my pet’s remains (*you may want to consider an allowance for any special markers, urns or caskets in this amount and indicate specific details, if any*).



## PET INFORMATION

Please make a copy of pages 7 & 8 to complete for each pet. These forms are also available on our website [www.dogspeedanimalrescue.org](http://www.dogspeedanimalrescue.org) We recommend you attach a photo of each pet to its completed form.

Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_  MALE  FEMALE

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Has your pet been spayed/neutered?  YES  NO

Type  Indoor  Outdoor  Cat  Dog  Bird  Horse  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Colour \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if your pet has the following identification:

Microchip Id (Brand) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Microchip Number \_\_\_\_\_

License (City or County) \_\_\_\_\_ Tag Number \_\_\_\_\_

Tattoo and/or other Identification Marks/Features \_\_\_\_\_

Medical History (any specific information relative to the pet's health history) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List all medications and supplements this pet is on (provide name/dosage/instructions (ie "take with food")) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Flea/Tick/Heartworm Preventative if applic. \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs (such as permanent medical condition or special exercise routine) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What brand of food do you feed this pet? Also indicate amount and frequency (ie 1 cup twice per day) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Diet Requirements \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Allergies (allergic to what foods, medications or environmental) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Behavioural habits (i.e. protective, fearful, aggressive, excessive barker, fear of thunder, scent marker, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please note any verbal and non-verbal commands your pet responds to as well as any body language used to communicate \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please outline your pet's daily routine/schedule (walking, eating, sleeping, playing, eliminating)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is your pet allowed outside? \_\_\_\_\_ Where does your pet sleep? \_\_\_\_\_

What access does your pet have to your home and furniture? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you keep pet's supplies (i.e. leashes, collars, food, food bowls, medicine, vet records)

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your pet like children? \_\_\_\_\_ Other animals? \_\_\_\_\_

If your pet has any favourite games, toys or possessions, please note what and where they are

\_\_\_\_\_

Use this space for any additional footnotes about this pet:



## DOG SPEED EMERGENCY ID CARDS

Emergency Wallet ID cards are for you to post in your home and carry with you in your wallet. This information will alert others to be aware of the pets in your home and who should be contacted to take care of them in case of an emergency.

Print this page, cut out the yellow card, complete the information, fold it and place it in your wallet.

### Emergency Identification Card

In case of an emergency, please contact the caregivers listed on this card (see reverse) asap to ensure care for my pets. I have \_\_\_\_\_ pet(s) in my home.

My address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Animal \_\_\_\_\_

Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Animal \_\_\_\_\_

Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Animal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Fold Here \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact Info for my Pets

In case of an emergency, please contact the caregivers listed on this card asap to ensure care for my pets (see reverse).

Name of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers \_\_\_\_\_



Emergency Contact Information Cards are for you to post in your home so that Emergency Responders can be aware you have pets that may require assistance in an emergency.

This information will alert others to be aware of the pets in your home and who should be contacted to take care of them in case of an emergency/evacuation.

You should also create a label to stick on your front door that simply states the number of pets inside (ie “In case of emergency, 2 dogs and 1 cat inside”).

Print out this page, cut out the yellow card, complete it and tape it to your wall in easy view of the front door.

We hope you have found this information package informative. Your pets and family will appreciate that you took a few minutes to complete and set up a plan for your pets’ future should something happen to you.

Dog Speed Animal Rescue & Transport Society is a Not-for-profit Canadian Registered Charity. We invite you to check out our website at [www.dogspeedanimalrescue.org](http://www.dogspeedanimalrescue.org), our Facebook Group “Dog Speed Animal Rescue” and you can also find us on Instagram and Twitter. Links to all our sites are on our website.

## Emergency Contact Information for my Pets



Our phone numbers:

(     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pets in our home:

Pet’s Name/Description \_\_\_\_\_

Pet’s Name/Description \_\_\_\_\_

Pet’s Name/Description \_\_\_\_\_

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

### VETERINARIAN:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

After hours emergency # \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY PET CAREGIVERS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_